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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Should the House of Representatives impeach Gov. Benigno R. Fitial?

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INSIDE

NATION

Rep. Todd Akin defied the nation's top Republicans Tuesday and forged ahead with his besieged Senate bid, declaring the party was overreacting to his comments that women's bodies can prevent pregnancies in cases of "legitimate rape" and by insisting he abandon his campaign. ➤ PAGE 13

LIFE & STYLE

Natalie Wood's death certificate has been changed to reflect some of the uncertainties and lingering questions surrounding the actress' drowning more than 30 years ago in the Pacific Ocean off Southern California. ➤ PAGE 18

> Federal agencies, and congressional committees with relevant oversight jurisdiction for the insular areas, have concerns about some of the things happening here... and I can say that some federal officials are deeply engaged in trying to help address some of our most pressing issues.
>
> —Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan

Kilili: Federal agencies aware of CNMI issues

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Fitial considered but not picked to serve on Romney campaign

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said yesterday that federal agencies are aware of several matters in the CNMI that "should concern them" but could not comment on any action that these entities—such as the U.S. Department of Justice—may take, even as local legislative panels have already launched reviews on Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham's secretive signing of a sole-source, 25-year power purchase agreement worth at least $190.8 million.

See KILILI on Page 4

IN FEDERAL, LOCAL SWEEP VS DRUG TRAFFICKING, GUN POSSESSION

Authorities arrest ex-police captain, 9 others

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» Active, former law enforcers also apprehended

Federal and local law enforcement agencies executed search warrants and arrested yesterday 10 persons, including former police captain Delbert R. Sablan as well as active and former law enforcers, for alleged distribution of methamphetamine or "ice" and possession of a firearm by a felon charges.

Nine defendants were brought to the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday afternoon for their initial court appearance hearing.

Aside from Sablan, the other defendants are former Corrections officer Jesse Reyes Babauta, former CNMI probation officer Robin Norita Sablan,

See ARREST on Page 4

$300,000 contract awarded for CNMI health insurance rate review

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Department of Commerce awarded an almost $300,000 contract to Washington Pacific Economic Development Group to review the CNMI's health insurance premium rate process.

Contract cost is $297,825 for 150 calendar days, based on documents obtained.

Commerce Secretary Sixto K. Igisomar signed the contract last May 31, followed in June by Procurement and Supply Director Herman S. Sablan, Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, then attorney general Edward T. Buckingham, acting

See CONTRACT on Page 4

FAVORITE PLAYGROUND

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Tourists from all ages enjoy Managaha's white sand beaches and beautiful waters when the skies cleared up on Saturday morning after days of heavy rains, allowing marine sports operators to offer banana boat riding, snorkeling, and diving. Five marine sports operators sued the Department of Public Lands for restricting access to the famous tourist island, accessible only by boat. Tasi Tours, which has exclusive contract with DPL over Managaha access, intervened in the case that is still ongoing.

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Friday payroll assured for CHC personnel. PAGE 2
OPA counsel calls Buckingham a fugitive. PAGE 4

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Local

Friday payroll assured for CHC personnel

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. employees were assured yesterday that payroll for all personnel will be issued on time this Friday after the administration was able to identify funding sources to avert another "walk-out" of physicians at the public hospital.

Corporation chief financial officer Alvaro Santos confirmed to *Saipan Tribune* that as of yesterday, funding for personnel cost have been set aside in time for the timely issuance on Friday.

When asked where the monies came from, he claimed that sources were a combination of hospital revenues and some "assistance" from the central government. He did not elaborate.

"God provides for everything…and when God provides, it comes from different forms and sources," Santos told *Saipan Tribune*.

Hospital employees experienced a payless Friday last Aug. 10. As a result, some outpatient clinics were forced to temporarily shut down due to lack of attending physicians, besides lack of medical supplies.

Yesterday, Marianas Public Land Trust chair Pedro Deleon Guerrero admitted that no funds have been released by the MPLT to cover for the corporation's payroll this week. This, despite admitting that "discussions" are ongoing between concerned parties on the $7-million line of credit for the corporation.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta, Marianas Public Land Trust chair Pedro De Leon Gurrero, and Department of Finance Secretary Larissa Larson are in deep thought in trying to find a fix to the Commonwealth Health Center's problems during a recent hearing at the Legislature.

Deleon Guerrero cannot immediately say the earliest possible time that the $7 million, or portion of it, may be released to the corporation. "I have no answer to that question for now," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

MPLT earlier revealed that among the factors that delay the issuance of the $7 million was the non-satisfaction of some requirements set for the corporation. A memorandum of agreement was also disclosed but has not been finalized to date.

Santos earlier revealed that from 600 full-time employees in October 2011, the corporation's workforce is now down to only 400 employees. This was result of the emergency reduction-in-force earlier implemented by the corporation, resignations, and retirement of employees.

The corporation's payroll cost is about $800,000 biweekly, not including housing allowance amounting to over $100,000 monthly. To date, the corporation is delayed in issuing the personnel housing allowance for six months and owes several vendors millions of dollars.

When the corporation took over in October last year, it was only appropriated a budget of $5 million compared to the $38 million allocated for the erstwhile Department of Public Health. The ongoing challenges at the hospital are believed to be a result of the lack of appropriate funding support from the Legislature.

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Federal health agency keeping close watch on CHC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The crisis at the Commonwealth Health Center has gotten the attention of a federal health agency which is now closely monitoring every step taken by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to address the challenges at the public hospital.

Saipan Tribune learned that Health Resources and Services Administration, through its international health officer Maria Benke, were first alarmed on the emergencies occurring at CHC last Aug. 15 and have expressed concern on the impact its ongoing struggles will have on federal programs funded by HRSA.

The HRSA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It provides leadership and financial support to health care providers in every state and U.S. territory.

HRSA grantees provide health care to uninsured people, people living with HIV/AIDS, and pregnant women, mothers, and children. They also train health professionals and improve systems of care in rural communities.

Sources disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that the center of the email discussion among federal health officials is the healthcare corporation's severe budget shortfall, details about the recent closure of non-emergency clinics at the CHC, the lack of doctors, and the cancellation of scheduled surgeries last week due to unavailability of physicians.

It was on Aug. 10 when CHC employees were supposed to receive their payroll but it was delayed for a couple of days. This payless payday resulted in the "walkout" of some doctors that eventually forced the temporarily shutdown of out-patient clinics. The payless payday is in addition to the lack of supplies and other concerns of employees.

The federal agency used as reference the media reports from the CNMI, highlighting the series of events that happened lately at CHC.

Saipan Tribune learned that Vanessa Lee, HRSA Region IX project officer for maternal and child health bureau, had specifically requested some information from the CNMI Maternal-Children Health Program director Margarita Aldan after learning that CHC could no longer keep clinics open and provide services beyond emergency care.

The federal official specifically asked the impact this had on the Title V program which provided grants to the CNMI.

In response to inquiries and request information from the federal health agency, sources revealed that CHC hospital administrator, Karen Buettner, submitted files of documents detailing the situation at the public hospital. Included were records of medical providers who have resigned, nurses who quit and replaced per unit, and last week's schedule of medical providers at CHC.

HRSA officials, *Saipan Tribune* learned, were also informed that the administrator and the corporation's CEO Juan N. Babauta are in constant communication with the Center for Medicare Medicaid Services in San Francisco informing them about the latest happenings at the hospital in a daily basis.

Buettner, it was learned, specifically reported to the federal agency that despite the closure of certain clinics recently, other out-patient units are business as usual such as HIV/STD clinics, immunization clinic, and TB clinic.

The administrator also pointed out that compared to U.S. states, recruitment in the CNMI takes longer because of the major transition involved in relocating candidates.

House OKs 4 resolutions, but yet to act on 6 committee reports

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives adopted four resolutions on Tuesday, including one congratulating Asiana Airlines on its 20th anniversary of providing services to the CNMI and another that commends Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band for its recent musical performance at the London Summer Olympics.

House members, however, have yet to act on six of seven committee reports on the agenda, including a report recommending passage of a bill legalizing marijuana for medicinal use.

The House adopted Rep. Ray Yumul's (R-Saipan) House Resolution 17-107, honoring the U.S. National Guard and Reserve forces and recognizing the support provided by private and public sector employers.

They also adopted Rep. Joe Palacios' (R-Saipan) H.R. 17-108, congratulating the Manta Ray Band for its "exemplary achievements and superior musical performance, especially their performances at the London Summer Olympics 2012."

Also adopted was HR 17-108, also by Palacios, commemorating Asiana Airlines' 20th year of service to the CNMI.

The House also adopted Rep. Ray Palacios' (Cov-Saipan) House Commemorative Resolution 17-29, conveying condolences to the family of the late Joaquin Santos Aguon, fondly known as "Akin Mantika," on his untimely passing.

The House, however, acted on only one of seven committee reports on the agenda, and that was a bill allowing the transfer of NMI Retirement Fund members to the U.S. Social Security system. House Bill 7-315, House Draft 1 passed by a vote of 17-1.

Yumul

Six other committee reports remain on the agenda.

They include the House Natural Resources Committee's report recommending passage of Rep. Stanley Torres' (Ind-Saipan) medical marijuana bill, or House Bill 17-311.

"Your committee finds that the time has come to legalize the use and possession of marijuana for medicinal purposes and to remove any and all associated penalties pertaining to the medicinal use and medical recommendation of marijuana," said the committee in its five-page report dated July 31, barely two weeks after the bill was referred to the panel, chaired by Rep. Joe Palacios.

'No safeguards'

Of the eight House Natural Resources Committee members, only floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) didn't sign off on the report.

Camacho said yesterday that while he understands the bill is for medicinal purpose, "it does not provide safeguards and protection for our youth."

"It may allow greater access for youth to abuse marijuana. As of right now, there is abuse of prescription drugs. Who is to say this won't happen to marijuana also?" Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* when asked for comment.

The other committee members who signed the report were Reps. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan), Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), and Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan).

HB 17-311 or the Legalization of Medical Marijuana Act of 2012 is the third legislation Torres has introduced to legalize "pot" use for medicinal and/or recreational purposes in the last few years. His previous bills were either killed by the Senate or gathered dust in committees.

Torres said that based on studies, marijuana is a safe and effective treatment for dozens of conditions such as cancer, AIDS, multiple sclerosis, pain, migraines, glaucoma, and epilepsy.

The bill seeks to delete substances from 6 CMC Section 2114 for the purpose of recognizing the now common and legal medicinal use of marijuana in the U.S.

Marijuana is the fourth most popular drug in the world, following alcohol, nicotine, and caffeine, HB 17-311 says. It adds that recent trends in legislation indicate that the medicinal use of marijuana is becoming an acceptable practice subject to legal restrictions.

In the U.S., laws allow for medical marijuana in several jurisdictions with varying rules governing quantity of plants or usable medical marijuana.

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INVITATION TO BID
Purchase Gym Deck Floor Covers, Sports and Exercise Equipment for the Rota High School Gymnasium
ITB12-GOV-102

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed bids to purchase gym deck floor covers, sports and exercise equipment for the Rota High School Gymnasium, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available August 13, 2012 at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building on Capitol Hill. A non-refundable payment of $25.00 is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment be presented when obtaining a project package. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid package in order to bid on this project. The ICC is available at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner on Capitol Hill. At the time of award, prospective bidder must obtain a U.S. Treasury Bond before a contract is executed.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

There will be a pre-bid meeting for this project on Wednesday, August 22, 2012, 9:00 AM., at the Governor's Office conference room, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Questions regarding the invitation to bid must be submit in writing to Leona Sablan, Project Coordinator, CIP Office, Office of the Governor or via facsimile (670) 664-2408, no later than August 29, 2012.

Sealed bids must be marked ITB12-GOV-102 Purchase Gym Deck Floor Covers, Sports and Exercise Equipment for the Rota High School Gymnasium. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two (2) copies of the sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP, no later than 10:00 AM, Monday, September 10, 2012. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 AM, September 10, 2012 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, one original and two (2) copies of the sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, September 10, 2012, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than September 19, 2012. Failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at 10:00 AM, September 20, 2012. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened and read at 1:00 PM, September 10, 2012.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be U.S. Treasury listed and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Project performance time for completion is 90 calendar days. The daily-liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) One Hundred Dollars ($100.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 90 calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid in the best interests of the CNMI government.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director of Procurement & Supply

OPA counsel calls Buckingham a fugitive

Office of Public Auditor legal counsel George Hasselback yesterday called former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham a fugitive from justice.

At the scheduled hearing for Buckingham's motion to quash the $50,000 bench warrant, Hasselback apologized to the court of his late filing yesterday of pleadings in which he brought the fugitive from justice issue.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman allowed defense attorney Michael N. Evangelista until Tuesday, Aug. 28, to respond to the issue.

Hasselback said considering that Buckingham was already served with the summons and he did not appear in court he is now a fugitive.

Hasselback said Buckingham lacks standing to move to quash the bench warrant because he failed to recognize the court's jurisdiction.

The OPA counsel said the former AG needs to come back to Saipan and clear this fugitive status.

"The cases that I cited they have applied in a situation where a person is represented by counsel," Hassselback said.

Evangelista said Buckingham is absent from the CNMI court's jurisdiction, but is not fleeing the jurisdiction

Evangelista said his client left the CNMI for medical reasons, but actively made arrangement for his representation in court.

The defense lawyer reiterated that Buckingham had asked the counsel (assistant attorney general Gilbert Birnbrich) to inform the court that he was willing to appear telephonically at the hearing.

Evangelista said the counsel apparently forgot to inform the court.

"My client is not a fugitive," he pointed out.

Buckingham recently filed in court, under seal, his voluminous medical records.

The medical records, said to consist of over 80 pages, are filed in support of Buckingham's motion to quash the $50,000 bench warrant issued for his arrest.

Buckingham cited family reasons in his first resignation.

An FBI special agent served Buckingham with the penal summons at the airport shortly after he and his wife left Saipan at 6am Delta flight to Narita, Japan last August 4.

OPA filed seven criminal misdemeanor charges against Buckingham. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

5 WEEKS AWAY FROM BUDGET DEADLINE

Senate poised to give more funds to some agencies

While some recent controversies may have overshadowed the fact that the CNMI is only about five weeks away from having another partial government shutdown if no budget is passed before Oct. 1, a Senate panel said yesterday it's ready to report on their version of the fiscal year 2013 budget bill that gives more money to health and education compared to the House's version.

Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) and member Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) separately said yesterday that the Public School System, Northern Marianas College, Medicaid, and Medical Referral Program will get more in their proposal versus the House budget.

Taimanao said PSS, for example, will get some $30 million under the panel's report, and this is more than the $28 million that the House gave in July.

But Taimanao said her panel is recommending cutting the lawmakers' discretionary budget, which the House pegged at $78,000, the same level as that of FY 2012.

"We will have the exact figures in the next few days when the committee meets for the last time before the next session which may be on Tuesday," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

Hofschneider and Taimanao also said that the Fiscal Affairs Committee is considering—but has not made a final decision yet—to merge the Department of Commerce and the Department of Labor "to help reduce the size of government."

Taimanao said the panel will also be recommending the "simultaneous" passage of the two NMI Retirement Fund/Social Security bills, besides the budget bill, next week.

Hofschneider said the committee will do its best to avoid another government shutdown.

"I don't think we can risk another government shutdown. This is a crucial year," he said. Mid-term elections is set for Nov. 6. Hofschneider said the budget is premised on 80 work hours biweekly.

The government's revised projected revenue available for appropriation in FY 2013 is $114 million, back to the level of some 20 years ago. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

CONTRACT

From Page 1

governor Eloy S. Inos, and Francisco S. Ada on behalf of WPEDG president Juan Carlos Benitez.

Benitez is an attorney, lobbyist, and a representative of the Republican Party. He served the Bush administration as special counsel for immigration-related unfair employment practices and a former senior vice president and international relations specialist at the Washington lobbying firm, Cassidy & Associates.

Acting attorney general Viola Alepuyo confirmed she's a subcontractor with WPEDG.

But the contract award was made in June, two months before Gov. Benigno R. Fitial appointed Alepuyo when Buckingham resigned for the second and last time this month.

John S. Blanco, the CNMI's Rate Review administrator, told *Saipan Tribune* that funding for the almost $300,000 contract came from a $1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

That $1-million grant was awarded in early 2011 to help the CNMI create a health insurance oversight office "that will expedite the development of a rate review process for all health insurance carriers because the CNMI currently lacks the resources to monitor market reform changes from HHS and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners."

Commerce's Division of Insurance sought qualified proposals to research, develop, and implement a premium rate review process specific to the CNMI.

The scope of work includes research on the current regulatory and statutory environment in the CNMI relevant to the review of health insurance premiums, and assessment of the current CNMI-specific market dynamics relevant to health insurance operations, costs and resources which impact private insurer's ability to provide premiums at reasonable rates relevant to market wages and income levels.

The contractor is also supposed to come up with a premium rate report and develop a CNMI rate review process.

KILILI

From Page 1

It may not only be federal agencies that are keeping an eye on CNMI controversies.

Fitial, on his way to Florida to attend the Republican national convention, was reportedly considered but passed up as national chair of Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders for Romney early this month. Romney named former Labor secretary Elaine Chao instead.

But the Romney campaign's decision came even before reports of Fitial's secretive 25-year power purchase agreement and the House minority bloc's plan of impeaching him over corruption and neglect of duty have surfaced.

But there were prior issues including Fitial's ties with disgraced former lobbyist Jack Abramoff and receiving a massage from a federal inmate temporarily freed from her cell in the wee hours of the morning.

Sablan said his office has on several occasions shared information with the appropriate federal agencies "on issues that we consider merit looking into."

"I have no further comment on any action that a federal agency or agencies, such as, for example, the Department of Justice, may take on the matter or matters. But federal officials are aware of several matters that should concern them," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune.*

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chair of the CNMI Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, separately said yesterday that they are addressing power purchase agreement "within our local law enforcement agencies" at this time.

Cruz's committee has been investigating alleged abuse of power, misuse of government resources, and other violations when armed police and ports police officers helped shield the former AG from being served penal summons on criminal charges.

At least three other House and Senate committees are also reviewing the questionable power contract with a mysterious Delaware-based Saipan Development LLC, which was incorporated five days before an initial deal with the CNMI in March.

But Sablan said "federal agencies, and congressional committees with relevant oversight jurisdiction for the insular areas, have concerns about some of the things happening here."

"And I can say that some federal officials are deeply engaged in trying to help address some of our most pressing issues," he added.

Federal officials and entities have yet to respond to media questions.

Sablan said his office also knows that the U.S. Department of the Interior and the Department of Health and Human Services, together with CNMI officials, "are looking into ways to help CHC [Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.] keep its certification for Medicaid and Medicare and to keep the hospital open."

"And that congressional staffs are concerned about the state of affairs at CHC," he said.

Locally, lawmakers asked the Office of the Public Auditor to investigate the no-bid power purchase agreement that Fitial and Buckingham signed on Aug. 3, the former AG's last day of work before leaving the CNMI despite being served a penal summons in connection with criminal charges filed against him.

A Superior Court judge also granted a temporary restraining order prohibiting the CNMI and Saipan Development LLC from pursuing the no-bid power purchase agreement.

Acting press secretary Teresa Kim said yesterday that acting governor Eloy S. Inos "has not received the original PPA and as such does not know who signed it on behalf of SDLLC."

She said the economic analysis, requested by Inos last week, is still ongoing.

ARREST

From Page 1

Robin Sablan's wife Ofelia Pua Sablan, Division of Youth Services counselor Leonard Urumelog Ordonez, Corrections officer Mariano Q. Falig Jr., Customs officer Perry M. Iguel, Vicente Aldan Sablan, and Xiang Rong Li.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in its media statement identified only nine defendants. A source said one arrested suspect was still off-island as of yesterday.

The nine defendants appeared with their court-appointed counsels. Judge Ramona V. Manglona remanded the defendants into the custody of the U.S. Marshal. Detention and preliminary hearings were also set.

Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. attorney for the Districts of Guam and the NMI, said the arrests of 10 suspects came about after a two-year long Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force investigation by federal and local authorities.

"We commend the hard work and effort of federal and local law enforcement—DEA, CNMI DPS, and CNMI Customs—agents, in this OCDETF investigation as this was a collaborative and cooperative effort by all agencies involved to protect our community against drug trafficking," Limtiaco said.

Acting DPS commissioner Aniceto Ogumoro said DPS will continue to work cooperatively with federal authorities in enforcing laws and protecting the community.

Former police captain Delbert Sablan was arrested for one count of possession of a firearm by a felon after he and Babauta allegedly sold to a "confidential source" a rifle in exchange for $600.

Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force officer Diwain A. Stephen stated in his affidavit that, on March 2, 2011 investigators with the DEA, Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives, and Drug Enforcement Task Force met with the confidential source at a location to prepare a controlled purchase of a firearm from Delbert Sablan and Babauta.

Stephen said a day before, the confidential source disclosed that Babauta along with Delbert Sablan was prepared to sell the confidential source a carbine rifle and ammunition.

Stephen said that, on March 2, 2011 the confidential source managed to buy a Winchester .30 caliber rifle, magazines, and ammunition from Delbert Sablan and Babauta for $600.

The alleged transaction allegedly happened at Delbert Sablan's house.

Assistant U.S. attorney Clyde Lemons Jr. clarified to the court that Delbert Sablan was not a participant in the drug transaction.

Delbert Sablan used to be chief of the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Bureau. In October 2001, a federal jury convicted him of one count of theft concerning federal money.

In February 2002, then U.S. District Court Chief Judge Alex R. Munson imposed a 27-month jail term on Delbert Sablan. The judge also required the defendant to pay $8,491 in restitution to DPS and a $15,000 fine.

Delbert Sablan was found guilty of stealing thousands of dollars in confidential informant funds during his term as chief of DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau.

With respect to Babauta, he was arrested on three counts of distribution of methamphetamine, one count of distribution of methamphetamine in or near schools or colleges, and one count of using or carrying a firearm in commission of a drug trafficking crime.

A confidential source allegedly managed to purchase "ice" from Babauta four times in 2011. The defendant also allegedly sold to the confidential source a .38 caliber Smith & Wesson revolver and four rounds of ammunition.

Defendants Robin Sablan, Ofelia Sablan, and Ordonez were arrested on one count each of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. The defendants allegedly conspired to sell less than a gram of "ice" to a confidential source in the parking lot of the Commonwealth Health Center on March 24, 2011.

Falig and Vicente Sablan, also known as "Ben Seven," were arrested for one count each of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. In addition, Falig was held for one count of using or carrying a firearm in commission of a drug trafficking crime.

Falig and Vicente Sablan allegedly conspired to sell 1.22 grams of "ice" worth $800 to a confidential source at Falig's residence in Tanapag on March 22, 2011.

Falig allegedly used his Department of Corrections-issued Smith & Wesson 9mm millimeter semi-automatic handgun as collateral to the confidential source before the "ice" was handed over.

Iguel was arrested on two counts of distribution of methamphetamine.

A confidential source allegedly purchased from Iguel $200 and $400 worth of "ice" on Dec. 13, 2011 and Jan. 10, 2012.

Li was arrested for four counts of distribution of methamphetamine for allegedly selling in excess of five grams of "ice" to a confidential source.

The confidential source allegedly managed to buy $900 worth of two grams of "ice" on May 19, 2011; $1,300 worth of three grams of "ice" on June 14, 2011; $1,160 worth of two grams of "ice" on July 19, 2011; and $400 worth of .68 grams of "ice" on Aug. 4, 2011.

Sablan: PSS short of 87 classroom teachers

» Double session for KagES OK'd
» Counselors, program managers asked to teach classes

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan said the Public School System lost an unusual number of classroom teachers that contributed to this year's shortage of educators and overcrowding in most classes in all levels.

With only two weeks to go before the scheduled opening of classes on Sept. 4, Sablan said PSS is short of 87 classroom teachers for both the elementary and high school levels.

She admitted that the hiring of replacements for these teachers will depend on how much PSS will be allocated for fiscal year 2013. PSS asked at least a $33-million budget for next fiscal year, but the House of Representatives earmarked only $29.5 million in the FY 2013 budget bill.

"At the end of last school year, we lost 87 classroom teachers and this is very unusual. They resigned due to economic reasons, retirement, and health issues. And, we cannot fill these positions because we don't know what the FY 2013 budget looks like [for PSS]," she told the Board of Education during yesterday's special meeting.

As a result of the lack of teachers, Sablan said PSS class sizes have significantly increased based on the anticipated enrollment this school year. At the elementary level, she disclosed that students-to-teacher ratio is up to 30 students per teacher, while at the secondary level she is anticipating class sizes of up to 45 students per teacher.

At Marianas High School alone, enrollment is anticipated to top 1,400 as against only 33 classroom teachers. The oldest high school will see as high as 45 students in the classroom this year.

In trying to reduce the large class sizes in the high school level, the commissioner had asked principals to allow school counselors and program managers who are highly qualified to teach to fill the gap.

This school year, PSS will also implement clustering of schools to leverage resources and personnel. It has formed five clusters: three for Saipan and a cluster each for Rota and Tinian.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, center, gestures as she explains the challenging situation the Public Schools System is facing this school year while federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh, left, and student representative Audrey Joy Ada listen during a Board of Education meeting yesterday.

Sablan disclosed that to date, Kagman Elementary School confirmed that it will implement double session for its 5th and 6th graders because of the school's high students-to-teacher ratio which is 30:1 from kindergarten to sixth grade. This decision, she said, was reached after trying other ways to reduce class sizes.

"Up to yesterday (Tuesday), we tried to see what can we do to address the issue…but absolutely, there's nothing we can do [for now]," she said, adding that a special meeting is called for Monday at 3pm for Kagman Elementary School students and parents to explain the situation.

Sablan said the only way for PSS to replace teaching positions is through additional budget for the next fiscal year. Besides the 87 positions for teachers, PSS also lacks personnel in maintenance, administrative office, and support staff positions.

Because of the anticipated bigger class sizes, board member Galvin Deleon Guerrero inquired about the readiness of teachers in classroom management.

According to the commissioner, teachers are scheduled to report for work on Aug. 27 for their professional development sessions in individual schools wherein classroom management will be among the key topics. Classes at kindergarten to 12th grade are set to start on Sept. 4. PSS is anticipating more than 11,000 students each year as against 400 teachers onboard.

Public warned against mosquitos, leptospirosis exposure

As the CNMI experiences heavy rain showers due to Tropical Storm Bolaven, the Division of Public Health's Bureau of Environmental Health warns of an increase in mosquito populations and leptospirosis exposure.

For this reason, BEH urges the community to follow the guidelines below to prevent the harborage of mosquitoes and rodents and hence, prevent mosquito- and rodent-related illnesses.

■ Avoid areas with standing water, which are ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes
■ Cover boats, children's pools, etc.
■ Clean rain gutters and make sure they are flowing properly
■ Remove all trash, tires, jars, cans, bottles, and other items that collect water
■ Keep grass and weeds mowed to reduce breeding sites
■ Water catchments must be fitted with a screen or a tightly fitted cover.
■ Wear protective clothing such as long sleeve shirts and pants or mosquito repellent when outdoors, especially in the early morning and at sundown. (Mosquitoes are most active during these hours).

Leptospirosis alert

You may contract leptospirosis by exposure to water contaminated with the urine of infected rats (e.g. ingesting contaminated water, skin contact, through eyes and nose, or through cuts and scratches).

Symptoms: High fever, headaches, chills, muscle aches, vomiting, or diarrhea.

This information will help the community protect itself from harmful illness and infection during rainy weather conditions. If you or a family member is experiencing the symptoms mentioned above, contact a physician.

Should you have any further questions, contact the Bureau of Environmental Health at 664-4870/72. ***(PR)***

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK, Plaintiff,	]	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0118**
-v-	]	
PIAO FENG SHAN and YUAN CHANG NU, Defendants.	]	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS, PIAO FENG SHAN and YUAN CHANG NU:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

DATED, this 15th day of August, 2012:

/s/ Clerk of Court

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Amendment No. 01)

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Special Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Friday, August 24, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMARY MATTERS
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
a. Memorandum of Agreement - ADA Compliance Retrofit of Marianas Medical Referral Center
IV. PERSONNEL MATTERS
V. FISCAL AFFAIRS
a. FY 2012 Financial Statement as of July 31, 2012
b. FY 2011 Audit Update
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VII. OTHER MATTERS
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND
"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"
1980

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICER SERVICES
(RFP NO. RF12-007)

OPENING DATE: **August 23, 2012** CLOSING DATE: **September 13, 2012**

The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund ("Fund"), the CNMI government employees' defined benefit plan, is soliciting proposals from qualified vendors to provide administrative hearing officer services with respect to consolidated appeals taken by members relating to adverse decisions of the Administrator relating to overtime/comp-time credits. The RFP packet contains a listing of affected members for the purposes of conflict checking by vendors. The Fund will not waive any conflict and requests that only non-conflicted vendors respond to this RFP.

To receive the RFP packet, please fax, e-mail, or mail your request to:
Esther Ada, Acting Administrator
Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
PO Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950
Fax: (670) 664-8080
E-mail: nmirf.rfp@nmiretirement.com

The Acting Administrator reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in a proposal if doing so is in the best interests of the Fund. All proposals shall become the property of the NMI Retirement Fund.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950

Head Start Policy Council

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a Regular Meeting on Thursday, August 23, 2012 at 5:00 p.m., Tanapag Head Start Resource Center, Tanapag Saipan.

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Quorum
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Adoption of Minutes:
   a. July 20, 2012 *(Regular Meeting)*
   b. July 27, 2012 *(Special Meeting)*

II. Public Comments

III. Communication
1. From the State Board of Education
2. From the Office of Head Start

IV. Monthly Reports
1. Director
2. Managers
3. Interim Finance Director
4. HPC Standing Committees
5. Center Representatives

V. Old Business
1. SY 2011-2012 Program Information Report (PIR)
2. Supplemental Grant Application for T & TA
3. SY 2012-2013 Mental Health Consultant Contract Status
4. Final SY 2012-2013 School Calendar
5. Final SY 2012-2013 Program Calendar
6. School Readiness/Family Engagement Goals and Common Core Implementation

VI. New Business
1. SY 2012-2013 Staffing Pattern
2. SY 2012-2013 1st Center Parent Involvement (Engagement) Committee Meeting Schedule
3. SY 2012-2013 Parent Volunteer/Engagement Training Plans
4. SY 2012-2013 Staff Pre-Service Professional Development/Orientation Plans
5. SY 2012-2013 Instructional Time and Class Schedule
6. FY 2012-2013 Notice of Award

VII. Miscellaneous Matters

VIII. Executive Session

IX. Next Meeting

X. Adjournment

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Annie Santos at (670) 664-3751/3761 or email address at ana.santos@cnmipss.org: several days notice is required.

/s/ Vinson F. Sablan
Chairperson

IN ONGOING LEGAL DISPUTE OVER MANAGAHA ACCESS

Camacho accepts $1,861 bond from marine operators

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday accepted the $1,861.05 that the five marine sports operators had posted as bond requirement in connection with their lawsuit against the Department of Public Lands over its rule on Managaha Island access.

» But orders marine sports operators to acknowledge responsibility for unsecured bond

In amending his previous order, Camacho ruled that the $1,861.05 or 3 percent of the $62,034 bond requirement is considered a secured deposit sufficient for the preliminary injunction to issue.

Camacho, however, ruled that the remaining portion of the bond requirement is considered unsecured.

Each of the five marine sports operators, the judge said, is responsible for 1/5 of the unsecured bond amount in the event that defendant DPL and Tasi Tours & Transportation Inc. are found to have been wrongfully enjoined.

Camacho said the preliminary injunction that he earlier issued shall become effective upon the filing of a signed acknowledgement by all five petitioners (operators) of their responsibility for the unsecured amount.

Camacho

"Based on the affidavits the court finds that each business is suffering from financial hardship rendering them unable to post the bond amount, consequently the requirement that petitioners post the full bond amount as a prerequisite to injunctive relief effectively denies them judicial review," Camacho said.

The judge, however, noted that this is not a case where if he ultimately finds that DPL and Tasi Tours were improperly restrained the burden would be minimal—as "the claimed losses by Tasi Tours represent a significant sum."

"Further, the court finds that it did not err in considering potential harm to Tasi Tours, an enjoined party," Camacho said.

In his July 19, 2012 order, Camacho granted the operators' request to maintain the status quo on Managaha access until their lawsuit against DPL is decided on its merits.

Camacho, however, ordered the operators to post the $62,034 bond. He said in that order that the preliminary injunction shall take effect once the full bond is remitted to the court.

The operators then posted $1,861.05 cash bond or 3 percent of the $62,034 that the court required them to pay in order for them to regain Managaha access while their lawsuit is pending in court.

The operators also filed a motion to modify the bond requirement. Tasi Tours and DPL opposed the motion. The court heard the motion yesterday morning.

Attorney F. Matthew Smith, counsel for the five operators, argued that the court erred in ordering a bond because Tasi Tours is not an enjoined party and that DPL has not shown any harm.

Smith asserted that the improper bond negates the court's preliminary injunction order and that the court has discretion to change the bond to a nominal amount.

Tasi Tours counsel Rexford Kosack argued that the court should treat the motion as one for reconsideration. He said no clear error exists because Tasi Tours is enjoined, and it would be inequitable to not consider loss to Tasi Tours.

Kosack said no manifest injustice results from the bond requirement because the operators are not public interest litigants and there is no statutory exception to the bond requirement.

DPL counsel assistant attorney general Michael Wilt argued that the injunction harms them because Tasi Tours' rent is based on their gross receipts and they may face a lawsuit from Tasi Tours.

Wilt said a bond is appropriate because this is not a public interest case. He added that because injunctions are equitable in nature a bond may be based on loss to an intervenor.

In a 13-page order issued yesterday afternoon, Camacho treated the motion as one for partial reconsideration of the bond amount.

Camacho said he did not commit clear error in setting the bond amount based on alleged harm to Tasi Tours. He determined that Tasi Tours is indirectly restrained by his July 19 order, and consideration of harm to them is proper.

Camacho said the evidence demonstrates that the petitioners suffer from serious cash flow problems and are attempting to use the scarce resources at their disposal to keep their businesses open, rendering it extremely burdensome for them to post the bond.

"Petitioners cannot without extreme hardship post the whole bond amount at this time and as a result they continue to suffer irreparable injury, even though they have shown entitlement to a preliminary injunction," the judge said.

Camacho said should petitioners be forced to post a bond instead of keeping their respective businesses solvent, the preliminary injunction would have the ironic and unintended effect of putting them out of business when it was intended to afford them relief from irreparable harm by preserving the status quo.

"Such a result would plainly be unjust," he said.

The five plaintiffs are Island Marine Sports Inc., Aquatic Marine Co. Inc. doing business as Amigo Aquatic Sports, Automarine Inc., Seahorse Inc., and BSEA Inc.

They are suing DPL to invalidate the department's rule promulgated on Dec. 13, 2011 and June 14, 2012 pertaining to Managaha access. Tasi Tours, which has exclusive contract with DPL over Managaha access, intervened in the case.

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Marianas Visitors Authority board new vice chair James Nelson, right, and treasurer James Mendiola smile for the camera after being elected during yesterday's meeting.

MVA board elects new vice chair, treasurer

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors yesterday elected James Nelson as its new vice chair and James Mendiola as treasurer.

Both positions were left vacant by the departure of former director Yoichi Matsumura, who bid Saipan adieu last February, said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio.

» Chairman, secretary retained

The decision of the board was to hold the election for the two positions only after its general membership meeting last June.

"The board can opt to elect two people or one person to fill those two positions," Tenorio told the board during yesterday's meeting.

The MVA is governed by a nine-member board of directors, five of whom are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, while the remaining four are elected by the board.

Currently the general manager of Docomo Pacific Saipan office, Nelson was among the three nominees for the position of vice chair. The other two were Jerry Tan and Chris Nelson, who both declined the nominations due to frequency of travels.

James Nelson, former general manager of the Guam Visitors Bureau, thanked the board for the vote of confidence and said he will accomplish his responsibilities as the new vice chair.

For the position of treasurer, the other two nominees were Tan and Emma Villagomez, and the two also turned down the nominations.

"My work is very light," Mendiola, Tinian representative to the board, told *Saipan Tribune* after Wednesday's meeting. According to MVA, the treasurer will be the third in line after the chair and vice chair in terms of signing document for the agency.

While the board only voted for a new vice chair and treasurer, Tenorio noted that they can also choose to elect a new chair and secretary, currently held by Marian Aldan-Pierce and Kazusuke Fukuju, respectively.

Outgoing legal counsel Eric Smith concurred, saying that the board can change its leadership at any time and that the officers' terms are open-ended.

But the board agreed to fill in only the vacant positions and retain Aldan-Pierce and Fukuju.

Petition underway to restore off-island travel for students

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A petition that hopes to sway federal officials from taking away federal funds for national and off-islands travel of CNMI students will soon be launched by the State Board of Education.

Board chair Marylou Ada said students—from private and public institutions—must have a position on the issue and she encouraged the student representative to organize a student assembly to seek their support.

"Let your voice be heard [on this issue]," she said yesterday, recommending that a joint effort be taken by the board student representative and the commissioner's office to come up with an effective plan.

To this end, the board tasked student representative Audrey Joy Ada yesterday to initiate the campaign to persuade federal officials to restore funding for local students' off-island travel.

PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh disclosed yesterday that pursuant to the "new policy" enforced by the U.S. Department of Education, the travel cost item under the consolidated grant for fiscal year 2013 must be zeroed out. The effort is in relation to the federal goal to cut the national deficit.

Board member Lucy Blanco-Maratita described as "odd" the new mandate from the national education department, especially as a time when CNMI students are excelling and surpassing other states in numerous national competitions.

Board member Herman T. Guerrero, for his part, emphasized the importance of showing to national officials the achievements of local students in off-island competitions to justify their appeal.

Thornburgh admitted that the CNMI might lose its representation to academic and non-academic school competitions in the national level because of USDOE's mandate to eliminate the travel item in the consolidated grant for next fiscal year.

The consolidated grant is one of PSS' regular grants received each year from the USDOE. It amounts to $8.4 million annually. The students' travel for inter-island and national competitions, along with travels of principals and PSS officials for their meetings and professional development, are being funded through this regular grant.

Thornburgh earlier disclosed that each fiscal year, travel for students' competitions both for inter-island and national contests has a $400,000 budget. Among these competitions are mock trial, forensic leagues, congressional mock trial, math court, spelling bee, academic challenge, JROTC competitions, science fair, and thespian festival.

Guerrero shared that based on his initial conversation with U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, Sablan promised him that he will ask USDOE for some "flexibility" on the travel funds due to its unique situation compared to other school districts in the mainland.

Thornburgh said that for many years, the consolidated grant has been funding several school competitions from regional level to national contest. CNMI students have been victorious in these events and brought honor to the Commonwealth.

Thornburgh said PSS will continue to appeal the matter to USDOE.

MVA board OKs $70K for marketing Russian charter flights

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors yesterday approved $70,000 for the marketing and promotion of Aviacharter, which would provide round-trip charter flights between Vladivostok and Saipan from October 2012 to March 2013.

» Another $20K to be used for Aviacharter seminar in September

During its meeting yesterday, the board also approved another $20,000 to allow MVA to participate in the seminar and launching of these charter flights next month.

The board's decision came after MVA managing director Perry Tenorio stated the need for the agency to support these charter flights that would bring in approximately $8.7 million to the Commonwealth.

Tenorio stressed that the $70,000 to be spent on marketing and promotion "is way below the return on investment that we're expecting from this source country."

Beginning Oct. 24, Aviacharter will have biweekly flights between Vladivostok and Saipan using an aircraft with a passenger capacity of 138 passengers. The 19 charter flights are expected to bring in 2,600 Russian visitors who will be staying on island between two to four weeks.

"These guys have already invested significant amounts of money and what we're doing is we would like to step up and also co-invest with them for marketing and promotion," Tenorio told the board.

While the CNMI has had Russian charter flights in the past, Tenorio noted in an interview that Aviacharter will be the first charter flight to provide point-to-point service between Far East Russia and Saipan. He said the Commonwealth typically receives its Russian visitors via Korea.

"It [Aviacharter] increases our opportunity to see more Russians come to the island… that's why we want to invest the money now and create the demand and hopefully, this would continue forward," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune.*

Although some issues have been identified for the Russian charter flights to push through, including necessary certification with the Transportation Security Administration, the managing director said that Aviacharter "may have been able to work out" the matter.

"We're encouraging the charter flights to happen," added Tenorio.

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio gestures as he addresses the board during a meeting yesterday.

2012 ECONOMIC CENSUS

Businesses to get survey forms in October

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CLARISSA V. DAVID
U.S. Census Bureau's Lee R. Wentela, Economic Census Branch chief, and Charles A. Funk, Company Statistics Division assistant division chief, were guests at Saipan Rotary Club meeting Tuesday.

Beginning October, businesses in the Commonwealth will receive survey forms for the 2012 Economic Census to be conducted by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Census Bureau.

Charles A. Funk, assistant division chief for the bureau's Company Statistics Division, said yesterday that businesses with more than one establishment or location will receive the forms by mail in October, while those businesses operating single entities will have the forms in December.

Funk, along with Economic Census Branch chief Lee R. Wentela, arrived on island last Friday as part of the upcoming survey that they will conduct in U.S. territories, including the CNMI, Guam, and American Samoa.

Held every five years, the Economic Census collects from businesses various key information—from sales and capital expenditures to employment and payroll—that would be used to measure gross domestic product of the respective territory.

"The Economic Census represents a comprehensive indicator of what is happening on the island with regard to industry sectors… There is a plethora of information about what's taking place on the island itself," Funk addressed Rotarians at Tuesday's general membership meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Wentela said in an interview that the Economic Census mandated under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, which also provides for the confidentiality of the survey responses.

Funk said that the U.S. Census Bureau will work with Justin Andrew of the CNMI Department of Commerce Central Statistics Division in conducting the census as well as handling inquiries and follow ups.

According to Wentela, the 10-page 2012 Economic Census forms reflects questions that were improved, thanks to their visit to the CNMI last year to test the questions' clarity.

"A lot of changes were made to the form to help make the gross domestic product better for what the Bureau of the Economic Analysis does," he said. "We made the changes and we were able to test them out."

Wentela also described the changes as "beneficial" in the CNMI where they get "very high" response rates, allowing them to make good quality reports. In the last Economic Census conducted in 2007, the response rate in the Commonwealth was 92 percent.

While the Economic Census will be a mail-out-mail-back survey, businesses are encouraged to utilize electronic reporting through the website that will be on the form, with a username and password identified for each business or location.

Electronic reporting, Funk noted, would help save cost in the conduct of the survey, thus making it more efficient. He also urged businesses to file their report "as timely and as quickly as possible."

"We expect in March 2014 the day the results will be coming out," added Funk.

During this trip, Funk and Wentela will be meeting with various individuals and organizations during this trip, including the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar, and U.S. Postal Service Saipan Postmaster Amy Marshall, to get the word out about the survey.

The two officials are scheduled to leave for American Samoa on Aug. 27.

Garapan St. Market to remain at Fishing Base

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs ruled that the Garapan Street Market will remain at the Garapan Fishing Base across from Kristo Rai Church following a recommendation based on an assessment conducted by agency staff.

» Study: Coral Tree Ave. not conducive for the weekly event

"We strongly recommend that Garapan Street Market remain at the Garapan Fishing Base and not the Coral Tree Avenue for the best interest of the public's health and safety," stated a letter dated Aug. 2 and addressed to DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao.

The letter was signed by Garapan Street Market coordinator Vincent M. Rabauliman, assistant coordinator George S. Fitial, entertainment logistics staff Genevieve S. Deleon Guerrero, and logistics staff Alejandro T. Olopai. Copies of the letter were also provided to various government offices.

The staff maintained that the Coral Tree Avenue, former site of the Garapan Street Market, is not conducive for the event held every Thursday since it is "very limited and congested" and does not provide ample parking space for vendors, entertainers, staff, and customers.

It was noted, too, that a tourist bus got into an accident with vehicles parked along the road due to the narrow street.

At one point, a Russian tourist coming from the south drove a car into the Garapan Street Market site, causing damage to tents that were put down. In a separate incident, another car coming out of the second street from Jonny's Sports Bar and Grill almost crashed into another vendor tent, Dela Cruz Pastry.

The Coral Tree Avenue also provides for a small area for the entertainment stage and does not have room for tourists and other customers to eat the food they purchased from the market or watch the program.

The assessment also indicated that Coral Tree Avenue and Paseo De Marianas "do not meet the fire safety code and subject to violation of blocking the fire exits" of the two hotels in the area, namely Fiesta Resort & Spa and Hyatt Regency Saipan.

"Due to identified vulnerable threats or hazards that may compromise the vendors, participants, public, and staff on [their]safety and health… DCCA opted to remain at the Garapan Fishing Base area," secretary Faisao told *Saipan Tribune.*

While there are certain vendors and groups that have expressed dismay on the decision to hold the street market in its new location, Faisao reiterated that their agency will not compromise the health and safety of the community and sought the cooperation of the public to promote the new site.

For more information about the Garapan Street Market, call 664-2576.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Coral Tree Avenue will no longer be the site of the Garapan Street Market after a recent study concluded that it is not conducive for the event held every Thursday.

MINA calls for support for 5th PIC Palooza

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance is seeking support from the community for the 5th Annual Palooza event to be hosted by the Pacific Islands Club.

Executive director Sam Sablan on Tuesday asked the public to attend the event, slated for Aug. 25, 7pm at the Charley's Cabaret, since the proceeds will go to the nonprofit environmental group.

Entrance fee to the 5th Annual PIC Palooza is $25 per person, inclusive of a scrumptious buffet menu, beer, wine, and soda.

The event will feature live entertainment by the PIC Clubmates, fun games, and exciting raffle prizes for the guests.

"We strongly encourage you to go out and bring your family and friends to support the Palooza," Sablan said at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting held at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Sablan noted that MINA relies on fundraisers such as the PIC Palooza as well as donations to support their programs and cover their expenditures in maintaining the organization, including administrative costs and outreach materials.

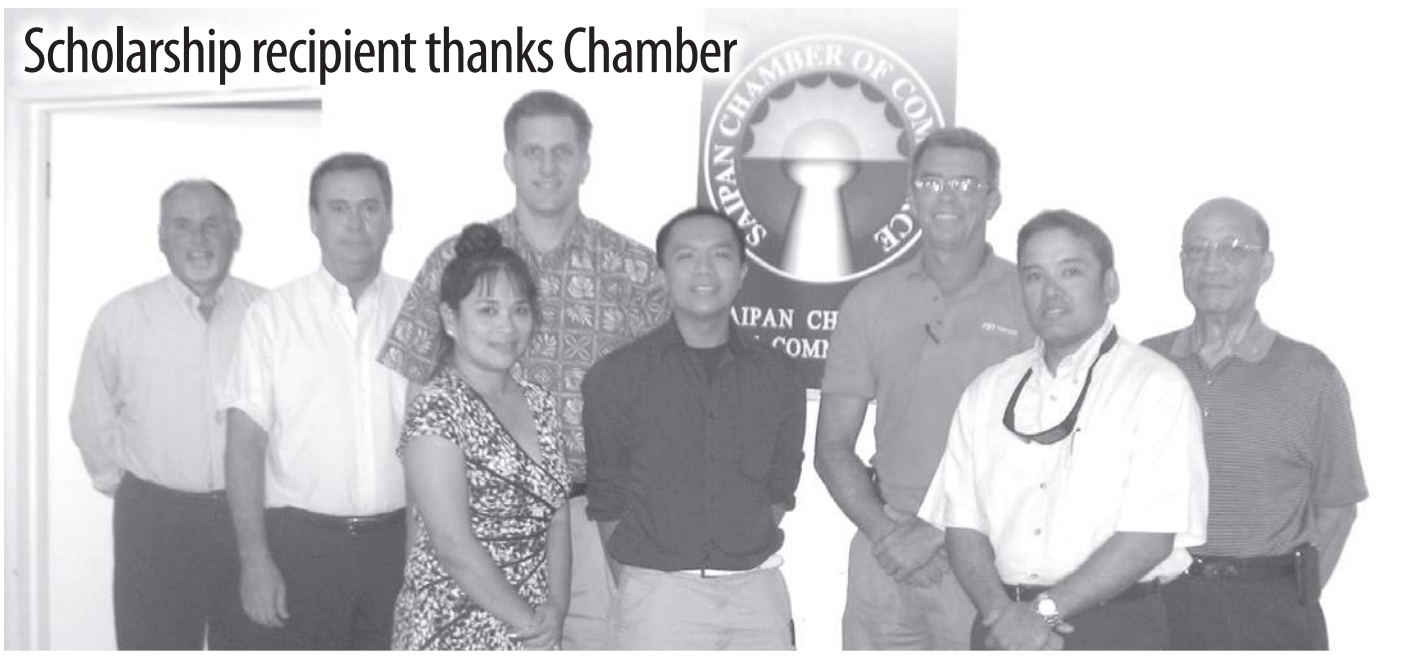
She said the group also conducts its own fundraising events, including the successful Green Gala event last May, which raised over $10,000 in cash plus in-kind contributions.

MINA also has its "Eating Out for the Environment" wherein it partners with various food establishments for lunch and dinner specials, a percentage of which will be donated to the group's programs.

"We're also looking into other various fundraising events that we hope will support our programs like a baseball tournament or something very simple that we all can afford to continue to support," added Sablan.

For more information about the 5th Annual PIC Palooza, call 237-5101 or 5148.

Scholarship recipient thanks Chamber



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

University of Michigan student and Saipan Chamber of Commerce college scholarship recipient Kevin Bautista (center) poses with Chamber officers, led by president Douglas Brennan (third from right), during a board meeting last week.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce had the good fortune recently to meet and talk with one of its former college scholarship recipients, Kevin Bautista, who had returned to Saipan for his summer vacation from the University of Michigan.

The 2011 SCC scholarship recipient met with the Chamber board of directors last Aug. 15 at their monthly board meeting, a week before he was to return to Ann Arbor, Michigan for fall classes at UM.

Chamber president Doug Brennan expressed satisfaction meeting with Bautista, "The board was impressed with Kevin's quest to better himself, as well as his dedication to bettering the CNMI. Just meeting with Kevin reinforces the Chamber's mission in providing assistance to the future success of our youth through education."

The Chamber annually presents $2,000 college scholarships to five individual high school students that have identified their chosen higher educational institutions. Bautista was in a group of five students chosen by a selection committee. Those five students were destined for the University of Michigan (Bautista), the University of Washington (Maria Balajadia), the University of Illinois (Grace Lee), the University of Guam (Marie Javier), and Georgetown University (Alexis Hofschneider).

The Chamber holds annual scholarship award events to fund its scholarships. The yearly Corporate Challenge, golf tournament, election year debate forums, and the installation dinner silent auction fund the annual $10,000 in awards.

Brennan acknowledged Bautista's visit, stating "We were taken by Kevin's motivation, concern for his community and the very fact that he graciously returned to thank the Chamber for its contribution to his future."

The Chamber, founded in 1959 and incorporated in 1976, is the largest private business organization in the CNMI. The 170 member strong organization works to promote and protect the business, economic, and civic interests, and general health and welfare, of our islands. ***(Chamber)***

Red Cross assists individuals affected by heavy rain

With the recent rains that have been swamping the islands in the past week, the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter encourages the public to take necessary steps to help mitigate against potential damages to their property.

Over the past week, the Red Cross volunteers Claudine Atalig and Janet Santos assisted two families that were affected by the recent heavy rains. One of the families was put up at the Red Cross shelter while they waited for the water to recede enough for them to clean up their house.

Both families were provided with kits to help disinfect and clear their homes of the flood waters.

"With all the heavy rain we have been experiencing, the ground has been saturated and it is taking longer for water to seep through the ground. This is why it is important that drainages and gutters are maintained and channeled properly to avoid flooding and/or water damage to property," said J.D. Tenorio, Emergency Services director of the Red Cross-NMI Chapter.

The Red Cross encourages the public to take these easy steps to lessen potential damages to their homes.

- Check to see that rain gutters are clean and unobstructed and directed properly to prevent possible flooding in and around the home.
- Make sure gutters and culverts around your home are clear of debris.
- Residents particulary in low-lying areas or those living near wet lands are encouraged to keep important documents in sealed plastic containers and above the ground.
- Keep extension cords and other electrical appliances off the ground.
- Be sure electrical fixtures and appliances are properly grounded.
- If you suspect that water may have gotten to outlets or other electrical fixtures, turn off main breaker and call CUC or an electrician to perform an inspection.

For more information or to become a volunteer, contact the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

Bolaven now a typhoon, but moves farther away from Marianas

Tropical Storm Bolaven (16W) was upgraded to a typhoon as it further gained strength yesterday, but was moving away from the Marianas region.

As of 7pm Wednesday night, Typhoon Bolaven's center was located 575 miles west-northwest of Pagan Island, 645 miles west-northwest of Saipan, and 655 miles northwest of Guam.

Bolaven brought heavy rains to the CNMI and Guam yesterday.

According to the U.S. National Weather Service in Guam, packing maximum sustained winds at 90 miles per hour, Bolaven was moving west at 11mph.

NWS said Bolaven's tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 155 miles from the center.

NWS said Bolaven is expected to intensify slowly through today, Thursday. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 23, 2000

Govt seeks funding to pay health providers
Local officials are racing against time to come up with the much needed amount to settle its unpaid account with two health providers im Hawaii amid threats that the latter will no longer accept patients referred by government's insurance group. The NMI Retirement Fund's health insurance owes Honolulu-based Straub Clinic & Hospital and Queen's Medical Center $2 million and $1.8 million, respectively, for the services they have rendered over the years. The two health providers have warned that they will refuse patients from the Northern Marianas unless the Fund's health insurance immediately pays its debt.

DPH lifts TB skin test for school children
The Department of Public Health has lifted the tuberculin skin testing requirement for school children following the recommendation by The American Thoracic Society, Center for Disease Control and the Infectious Diseases Society of America. "Screening of low-risk persons is discouraged because it diverts resources from activities of higher priority. In addition, a substantial proportion of tuberculin-test-positive persons from low-risk populations may have false-positive skin tests," the national guideline on tuberculin testing said. However, the immunization program requiring children to take vaccinations in polio, measles, influenza, etc. on the island remains unchanged.

Aug. 23, 2001

$200K approved for road projects
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday approved the appropriation of $200,000 for various road projects in Precinct I identified under House Local Bill 12-37. Tenorio said HLB 12-37, now Saipan Local Law 12-17, can expeditiously provide for the improvement projects following confirmations made by the finance department that there is an adequate money to fund the projects including the paving of As Perdido Road to Leon Camacho and Andersina Villagomez Roads. The $200,000 allocation will be taken from the fees collected under Saipan Local Law 12-17 or the Local Poker Fees. Since 1999, the finance department collected over $4.7 million from poker operations in the Northern Marianas.

'Reduce labor costs to attract new investors'
The CNMI government has been asked to initiate programs that would build up a strong local labor force to pave the way for a reduced cost of doing business in the Northern Marianas, thereby, helping the Commonwealth mitigate current investor climate constraints. According to a government economic report, building a local labor force would minimize the islands' dependence on skilled nonresident workers. The report said although labor cost in the CNMI, as seen by American investors, is low, Asian businessmen who are more likely to infuse fresh capital into the CNMI looks at current figures as high.

Aug. 23, 2002

Budget under review for signing
The $213-million budget for Fiscal Year 2003 is now before Gov. Juan N. Babauta, where it is being expeditiously reviewed so he could immediately sign it into law. Once he affixes his signature on the spending plan, this will make for a historic first, after four years of the CNMI government operating on continuing resolution. "We received it [Wednesday] and it is now undergoing review to make sure that the monies are distributed equitably throughout the departments, activities and programs. As soon as that's done, we'll sign this historic budget that we've all been anticipating," said Babauta.

NMIRF insists HPMR contract is legal
The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund stands by its position that it has the authority to handle its own procurement, despite an Office of the Public Auditor investigative report that determines otherwise. Fund legal counsel Kathleen Troy-Rucker said the Fund disagrees with OPA's analysis of these issues and stands by its position that it has the authority to manage its own procurement. The OPA had issued Tuesday a partial result of its investigation on the Fund's procurement of Hawaii Pacific Medical Referral as third-party administrator for the Group Health and Life Insurance Program. The report said the Fund seems to have violated certain procurement regulations in contracting the services of HPMR. When asked for comments, though, Troy-Rucker said: "Our comments are spelled out in our response to OPA's initial draft of this [OPA] report."

Island Snapshots

GUAM NATIONAL GUARD CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry stand in a battalion formation during the annual training this year at Camp Roberts in California.

FIREARMS TRAINING CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI Judiciary's five marshals last week completed firearms training conducted by the Department of Public Safety. In photo, from right, are Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho, acting chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, chief marshal Anthony P. Benavente, firearms instructor David M. Hosono, DPS deputy commissioner/range master Ambrosio T. Ogumoro, deputy marshal 1 Benusto M. Lisua, deputy marshal III Jesus S. Santos, deputy marshal Cindy D. Serrano, and deputy marshal 2 Juan K Atalig.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Deputy marshal 1 Benusto M. Lisua in action during the firearms training.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Deputy marshal I Benusto M. Lisua, chief marshal Anthony P. Benavente, deputy marshal 1 Anthony A. Atalig, Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho, firearm instructor David M. Hosono, and deputy marshal 2 Juan K Atalig pose at the firing range.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Deputy marshal I Benusto M. Lisua tries to hit the mark.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Jo'Yvette Concepcion! (left) May your birthday be filled with sunshine, smiles, laughter, love, and cheer. Have a safe and wonderful day. Miss and love ya lots. Greetings from Katie Cruz.

Belated happy birthday to Regina Limes. Hope you had a blast and may the good Lord continue to send you much blessings! Stay brave and beautiful Mama. Much love, goddaughter Kai and Ankie Boy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONGRATULATIONS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations Joshua Sablan on graduating from the fire academy! All your life you've struggled, strived for perfection, went through hardship, put your mom in positions she have never expected of you. Until one day you stood grounded, decided to make a difference in your life, not only for the best but for the future to come!

ROBBED PAWNSHOP ROSS GARCIA

Photo shows the sawed off padlock to the door of Villaroyal Pawnshop in Lower Dandan after a burglar or burglars forcibly opened the store Sunday. A flat screen TV set was stolen.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

A 21st century test: What's a 'search'?

Even many who cherish the "original meaning" of the Constitution recognize that provisions drafted in the 18th century must be interpreted in light of changing technology. That is especially true of the 4th Amendment's guarantee of the "right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures."

When the amendment was adopted, unreasonable searches involved physical trespass. But in 1967 the court ruled that the 4th Amendment was violated when federal agents affixed a wiretap to the outside of a telephone booth being used by a gambler. What mattered, wrote Justice John Marshall Harlan, was whether the suspect had a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Flash forward to 2001, when the court held that police violated the rights of a drug suspect when they aimed a thermal imaging device at his house to determine whether the heat inside was consistent with marijuana cultivation. Justice Antonin Scalia wrote: "Where, as here, the government uses a device that is not in general public use, to explore details of the home that would previously have been unknowable without physical intrusion, the surveillance is a 'search' and is presumptively unreasonable without a warrant."

The latest controversy over adapting the privacy protections of the 4th Amendment to new realities concerns global positioning system, or GPS, devices, until recently an exotic technology but now as ubiquitous as the cellphones of which they are a prized feature. Seven months after the Supreme Court sidestepped a major decision on the constitutionality of warrantless GPS tracking of criminal suspects, a federal appeals court in Cincinnati has issued a decision on the subject that seems as antiquated as a rotary phone.

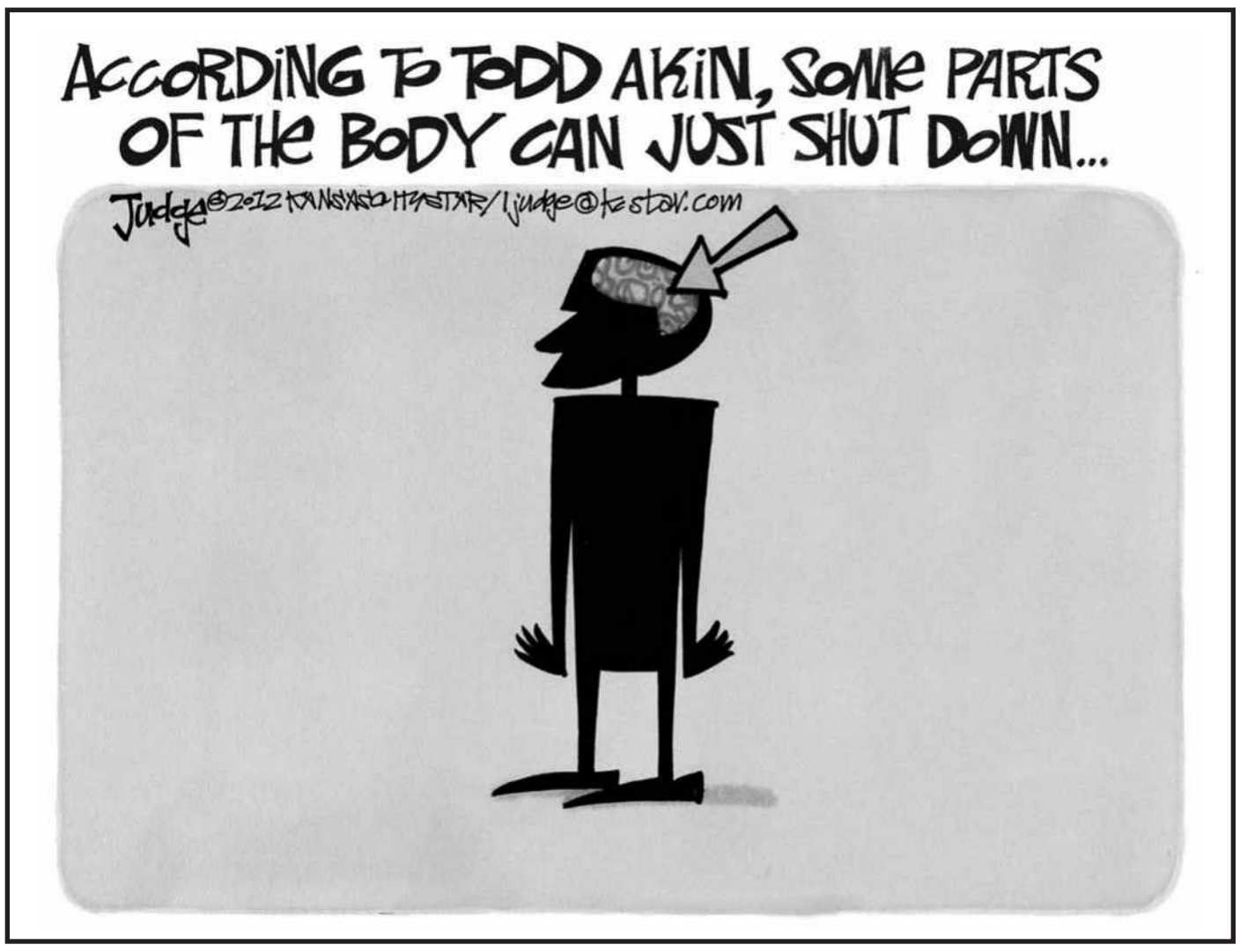
Melvin "Big Foot" Skinner was a drug runner who was apprehended after Drug Enforcement Administration agents established his location through signals sent by his pay-as-you-go cellphone. The agents could have sought a warrant for the information by showing probable cause that Skinner was involved in drug trafficking, but instead they obtained an order by convincing a magistrate judge that the desired data were merely "relevant and material to an ongoing criminal investigation."

Writing for the court, Judge John M. Rogers dismissively observed: "When criminals use modern technological devices to carry out criminal acts and to reduce the possibility of detection, they can hardly complain when the police take advantage of the inherent characteristics of those very devices to catch them." Perhaps not, but the 4th Amendment and the requirement of probable cause are designed to protect innocents as well.

Rogers' decision reflects two legal principles that have been undermined by technological changes. The first is that although the contents of a phone conversation may be protected from casual police intrusion, phone records are not. In the era of land lines, the courts concluded that callers didn't anticipate that the exchanges they dialed to and from would be kept secret. In the cellphone era, however, those records can pinpoint not just who called whom but also the phone's variable location.

The decision also is consistent with a distinction the Su-

See TEST on Next Page



Syria's fault lines: Amid the violence, religious and ethnic strife is on the rise

By EDEN NABY and JAMSHEED K. CHOKSY
Los Angeles Times

Eden Naby, a cultural historian of the Middle East who has taught at the University of Wisconsin and Harvard University, is author of "Assyrians of the Middle East." Jamsheed K. Choksy is a professor of Central Eurasian, Islamic and international studies at Indiana University. They wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Syria has long had a diverse population that managed to live together in relative harmony. And the struggle to end Baathist rule drew together citizens from across class, economic, religious and ethnic lines. But now, in the fog of war, a growing sectarianism suggests that a stable Syria after President Bashar Assad's eventual ouster may prove to be elusive.

Unfortunately, some at the forefront of the 17-month-long conflict are no longer championing inclusiveness as they did when the uprising began. "We ate from the same plate and then they stabbed us in the back," lament Syrian Christians.

That critique is applicable not only to Assad loyalists who are fanning the flames of faith and background to hold on to faltering supporters but also to Assad's opponents, who are blaming minorities for supposedly having bolstered the regime for decades.

The Arab Spring, like the Iranian Revolution and the Iraq war (and subsequent civil war) before it, suggests that new political systems that are tolerant and representative of entire populations prove hard to establish. Indeed, the emergent violence against religious minorities in Syria is becoming yet another instance of how Middle Eastern countries that replace dictators still fail their citizens.

Syria's population of 22.5 million is made up of a diverse citizenry: 70 percent to 74 percent Sunnis; 13 percent Alawites and other Shiites, including Ismailis; 10 percent Christians such as Greek Orthodox, Syrian Orthodox and Church of the East (i.e., Assyrians), Armenian Apostolic, Eastern rite Catholics, including Chaldeans and Melkites; 3 percent Druze; and even small yet vibrant Jewish and Yazidi communities. By ethnicity, Syrian society is 90 percent Arab, with the remaining 10 percent made up of Kurds, Assyrians, Armenians and others.

Since the uprising against Assad's regime, an estimated 120,000 refugees have taken shelter in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq, and their numbers are growing, according to the United Nations. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent estimates that 1 million citizens are internally displaced and in need of food, shelter and medical care. In addition, the U.N. estimates that more than 17,000 people _ including noncombatants _ have died.

Although the Syrian civil war has claimed casualties from all groups, those subject to displacement and persecution are, increasingly, members of minority groups. In Damascus, Aleppo, Hama, Homs and Qusair, people of different faiths and ethnicities lived in shared neighborhoods or in proximate areas for centuries, even during nearly five decades of Baathist rule. That harmony is fraying now, replaced by claims of long-held hatreds.

Domestic and foreign Sunni militants and local clerics even use the loudspeakers of mosques _ customarily employed for the call to prayer—to order Druze, Christians and Shiites to leave the area or face danger and possibly death at the hands of their former co-denizens. Women are being targeted in tit-for-tat kidnappings and rapes as violence rises between their communities.

The growing role of al-Qaida brigades lends urgency to the need to deal with the deteriorating conditions for groups not affiliated with Syria's majority Sunnis. These al-Qaida terrorists, crossing over from Sunni strongholds in Iraq and increasingly independent of indigenous anti-Assad forces like the Free Syrian Army, target those they believe to be regime supporters largely on the basis of religious affiliation.

Druze, who are denounced by fundamentalist Sunnis as spiritual cousins of the Alawites _ the minority group that the Assad clan belongs to, which is seen as backed by Iran _ and Christians, who are blamed for working in the Syrian armed forces, bear the brunt of attacks. There are Assyrians and other minorities who opposed the Assad government for more than a decade even at the expense of alienating others within their communities who saw safety coming from, ironically, political repression. But that carries little value among Sunni militants, who hold both weapons and cash.

The extremists who seek to eradicate diversity could bring about the elimination of Alawites, Christians, Druze and Yazidis from a country where their history is long and deep. Indeed, ongoing events in Syria may come to parallel those in post-Saddam Hussein Iraq, where sectarian strife devastated the Mandaean community and reduced the Christian population by two-thirds.

See SYRIA on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

America's got talent

By JAIME R. VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Former PSS teacher Jaime Vergara now teaches at Hang Gong Hang Tian Da Zue, Shenyang Aerospace University and is currently traveling in north Inner Mongolia in the prefecture of Hulunbeier.

We have two singing presidentiables competing for our attention. Obama did Al Green's *Let Us Stay Together*, while Romney belted out the beloved hymn of *America the Beautiful*. That each camp found cause to point out deficiencies in the renditions is simply an unavoidable political hazard.

Singing, of course, is the language of the heart. The phrase "Singing Revolution" refers to Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania's response to the Nazis in WWII, and the Russians during the Cold War. They were forbidden to sing in public any of their rousing national songs. The Baltic folks just kept singing, and a recent PBS docu has the Lithuanian defying their Soviet lords until the Berlin Wall came down, and the flowering of their voices bloomed and is now digitized for the world.

The first act of a baby when transitioning from water-based existence to air-based breathing is to sing. Well, not exactly to the tune of Beethoven's *Fifth* but the "waaah" wailed when heard has been known to keep a father's heart to skip a beat, and a mothers throat to utter a deep sigh of relief.

We taught Peace Corps Volunteers in the early '80s employing the immersion method. One went to class with nothing but the language being learned. This has pedagogical merit. A baby's way of learning a first tongue is to hear it spoken, and then to mimic what one hears. Thus, we learn language by first hearing, then repeating, before we are confident enough to speak on our own.

Schooling adds reading and writing. We learn to read, utilizing sounds symbolized by the alphabet. After third grade in the PSS curriculum, a student reads to learn. We get familiar with syntax (grammar) and expand word meaning (vocabulary). We are taught to recognize ratio and afix them with numbers. We objectify patterns that evolve into what is logical and/or reasonable. Cognition is birthed.

Intelligence is measured in terms of its facility with words and numbers, and it expresses sense experience, emotional state, mental discipline, and willed decision. Hearing words delivered through familiar music is one of the natural methods of getting fluent in a language.

Singing has become a lost art in our schools since we treated music as an academic course. Somehow, we managed to kill the spirit of singing with either irrelevance (too much reliance on classical forms), or justifiable boredom (the inanity of the mathematical scale). We let pros sing our national anthems at public events, promoting their trademark vocal styles rather than lead a crowd in communal singing.

One of the remarkable features of the Olympics is the playing of one's national anthem when receiving the gold. Almost invariably, a member of Team China in the medal platform visibly sings *Qilai, Qilai* (Arise, arise!), when the national anthem is played.

Team America was once a meaningful term. Our 1992 Basketball Team was dubbed the Dream Team. The Dallas Cowboys called themselves America's Team. Somewhere along the line, teamwork got sidelined as stardom shined in the skies. We hope the current team of superstars retrieves the reputation.

Christianity evolved first as Team Ecclesia (the Household of God) in the manner of the expected one, Messiah in Hebrew, before it became idolatrous and began singing the glories of Jesus Christ Superstar! So this dichotomy is not new.

China's French Open champion Li Na bolted out of the team and went solo on claims that economic gains favored the team's interest too much. She is not very popular, and her lackluster performance in London, losing her first game, did not receive much sympathy.

Liu Xiang of the 110m-hurdle capped the gold in the 2004 Athens Olympics, was hounded by all kinds of ailments, got healed and was poised to reclaim a medal in London. He walked around tagged by a lion's share of favorable media. He stumbled on the first hurdle of his heat, and went through tendon surgery. The paparazzi are still on his tail.

His expressed sentiment is: "winning a medal is not what matters; participation does," according to his coach. He shares his means liberally (e.g., Sichuan earthquake) and remains one of Team China's staunch members.

Talent in current American parlance is a stardom category, with competition understood as one besting another. *America's Got Talent* on TV mirrors our politics. Wisconsin's Paul Ryan notwithstanding, Republican conservatives still shun Romney, and Obama tries to prove he is mainstream and centrist to the Democrats. I would rather that he be liberal and progressive.

Obama leads the polls and has an edge on 9 of the 10 swing States in the coming election. The contest, however, is doomed to be another lose-lose affair, as once more, governance get stuck in grid lock, and the American people will wail their whine unto the heavens! Team "Yes, we can" got sidelined by BHO the reluctant superstar!

An old guru once wrote: Hope appeareth, but it is not your Hope—you do not have anything to do with it. It just appeareth. It comes as a stranger, as an alien—it just appeareth! You do not even know why you hope. How in the world could you hope when there is absolutely nothing to justify any hope?

The presidentiables are singing. That's hopeful!

TEST

From Page 10

preme Court has drawn between papers in the sole possession of a citizen, and bank and phone records that are the legal property of a corporation. But that difference is also an anachronism.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor suggested as much earlier this year in a concurring opinion when the court held that the surreptitious attachment of a GPS device to a drug dealer's vehicle was a "search" under the 4th Amendment. It may be necessary, Sotomayor wrote, "to reconsider the premise that an individual has no reasonable expectation of privacy in information voluntarily disclosed to third parties. This approach is ill suited to the digital age, in which people reveal a great deal of information about themselves to third parties in the course of carrying out mundane tasks."

The framers of the Constitution could not have envisioned the cellphone, much less its ability to establish the whereabouts of its owner, but the language of the 4th Amendment to protect persons and "effects" will, as it so often has, adapt to modern life.

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SYRIA

From Page 10

Yet the outcome in Syria need not be one of sectarian fracture. Most Syrians do not support or engage in violence along religious and ethnic lines. Leaders of the Free Syrian Army and other indigenous opposition groups have attempted to keep sectarianism at bay, knowing it is detrimental to their cause. Their efforts need to be bolstered from the outside.

The United States and the European Union should make their political and fiscal assistance to the rebel groups conditional on respect for human rights and religious freedom. Likewise, the United Nations must insist that the legitimate rights recognized by international charters and conventions be protected. The Free Syrian Army and other indigenous rebel groups, if held firmly by the international community to support rights, can turn the tide against Sunni militants and other intolerant factions, thereby ensuring that a post-Assad Syrian society is a multiethnic and multireligious one.

After all, any resolution of the Syrian civil war that lacks attention to overcoming ethnic and religious divides will have long-term consequences not just for that nation but for the entire region.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Not favored bidder

Mr. Erediano,

I represent GPPC, Inc. We read with great interest your disparaging article in Monday's *Marianas Variety*. This correspondence is intended to correct the factual and contextual inaccuracies you reported.

First, to be clear, GPPC is not a "favored bidder" of the present administration as you report "you were told" without naming your source. To the contrary, GPPC was simply the lowest bidder on this phase of the Cross-Island Road project—$285,000 lower than the next lowest bidder. If any bidder is being favored by the Department of Public Works, it is the next lowest bidder which self-serving complaints led former DPW secretary Martin C. Sablan to urge the Division of Procurement and Supply to disqualify GPPC, ultimately over one minor and immaterial technicality in its bid documents, in order to award the project to the next lowest bidder who also had technical defects in its bid. Again, an award to the next lowest bidder would have been at an additional cost to the government of almost $285,000. The choice of the next lowest bidder was not because Mr. Sablan was dissatisfied with GPPC's performance as you reported. A simple review of the relevant protest and appeal documents will confirm that DPW does not have issues with GPPC's past performance on numerous DPW construction contracts.

Another error in your report: GPPC did complete Phase II-A of the Cross-Island Road project within the time limits set by DPW. That phase of the project did take longer than expected because of the need to remove and relocate CUC utility infrastructure, but the next lowest bidder, which was the prime contractor on Phase I of the Cross-Island Road project, suffered the same delays and finished behind the originally planned schedule. And, it was GPPC that finished Phase II-A to Kagman, not the next lowest bidder.

As for the pending protest proceedings, the urgency of an award and the claim that DPW will lose ARRA funds, the claim of losing funds has not been substantiated. Further, DPW's canceling of the procurement at this stage when GPPC is on the verge of validating the completeness of its bid documents only increases the costs to the government and further delays the Cross-Island Project completion. GPPC will continue to protest decisions of the government in procurements where there is patent inequity, unfairness, incompetence, and corruption. Here, GPPC believes that it is fundamentally wrong for the government to spend additional public funds on a construction project for political reasons and/or political retribution.

So, what was the real reason for Martin C. Sablan's recent slanderous statements and his decision as DPW secretary to waste hundreds of thousands of government dollars based on a minor bidding technicality? Former secretary Sablan has made it well known that he believes he was removed from office because of his support for the Covenant Party. We can only assume that he is using this opportunity to exact some revenge while in the process defaming GPPC as is the *Variety* defaming GPPC by recklessly printing statements that are false, malicious, and potentially damaging to GPPC's good business reputation as a quality prime contractor in the CNMI, Guam, and the FSM.

If you would like true and accurate information in order to make a report that does not gratuitously defame the long-standing good reputation of GPPC, a home-grown Saipan construction company, let me know and I can provide you with all of the procurement, protest, appeal, and contract documents for this project—in all of its phases—that will provide you with actual facts. You can then report accurately and not simply rely on the ill-advised statements of a disgruntled former secretary of DPW.

Mark B. Hanson
Beach Road, Garapan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 10 mph.
▲87° ▼76°

FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph.
▲88 ° ▼77°

SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°

SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°

MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°

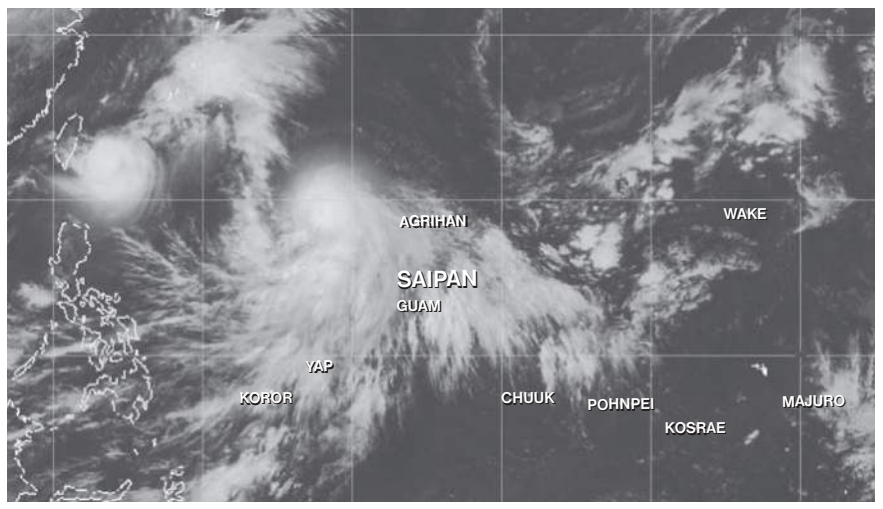
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲87	▼76
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼76
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲63	▼47
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼60
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼81
Honolulu	Sunny	▲87	▼75
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼57
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼65
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85	▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲61	▼42
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼79
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼65
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲93	▼77
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼62
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲82	▼77
Rome	Sunny	▲95	▼72
Salem	Sunny	▲78	▼49
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼52
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲81	▼72
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲92	▼77
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼70

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Bolaven (16W) is centered 590 miles west-northwest of Saipan near 19N138E and is moving west-northwest at 9 mph with maximum sustained winds of 90 mph. Heavy rain and isolated thunderstorms are found within 125 miles of the center. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found south of the storm north of Koror and Yap between 10N and 17N from 136E to 141E and southeast of the storm near and east of Guam and Saipan between 11N and 15N from 145E to 150E. For more detailed information on typhoon Bolaven, see bulletins issued by the national weather service under WMO header WTPQ32 PGUM and the joint typhoon warning center under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found northwest of Typhoon Bolaven between 23N and 25N from 132E to 134E. A surface trough that runs from 7N140E to 3N130E is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms around Koror between 6N and 10N from 130E to 142E and within 50 miles of a line running from EQ130E to 3N135E.Another surface trough extends from 11N156E to 10N153E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:46 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
1:03 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
6:42 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
12:24 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:04 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:34 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:34 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:33 PM
Monday	6:04 AM	6:33 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Thursday	10:57 AM	10:44 PM
Friday	11:58 AM	11:38 PM
Saturday	12:58 PM	-
Sunday	1:58PM	12:36 AM
Monday	2:54PM	1:35 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)

UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Epic patent trial over iPhone technology wraps up

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—A lawyer for Apple said Tuesday that Samsung was having a "crisis of design" after the launch of the iPhone, and executives with the South Korean company were determined to illegally cash in on the success of the revolutionary device.

Samsung's lawyer countered that the technology giant was simply and legally giving consumers what they want: Smart phones with big screens.

The competing claims came during closing arguments at the multibillion-dollar patent trial involving the world's biggest smartphone companies, after last-minute talks between chief executives failed to resolve the dispute.

Lawyers finished closing arguments late in the day, and jury deliberations were expected to begin Wednesday.

Apple Corp. argues that Samsung Electronics Co. should pay the Cupertino-based company $2.5 billion for ripping off its iPhone and iPad technology when it marketed competing devices.

Samsung has sold 22.7 million smartphones and tablets using stolen—"infringed" in legalese—Apple technology since June 2010 on sales of $8.16 billion, Apple's lead attorney, Harold McElhinny told jurors Tuesday.

"The damages in this case should be large because the infringement has been massive," he said.

McElhinny said Apple confronted Samsung about the alleged copying and sought a resolution before filing its lawsuit last year.

"Instead of doing the right thing, Samsung decided to gin up claims of its own," McElhinny said of Samsung's counter claim seeking $399 million from Apple for allegedly using Samsung technology in making the iconic iPhone and iPad.

Apple and Samsung combined account for more than half of global smartphone sales. Apple is also demanding that Samsung pull its most popular cellphones and computer tablets from the U.S. market.

"Apple is asking what it is not entitled to," Samsung's lawyer Charles Verhoeven said during his closing arguments. "Rather than competing in the marketplace, Apple is seeking an edge in the courtroom."

Verhoeven argued that the state of technology has led most phone makers to design simple-to-use products with large, rounded rectangular faces. He conceded that Apple makes great products but said it doesn't have a monopoly on the design it claims it created.

"There is nothing nefarious about this, it's the way technology has evolved," he said, showing jurors a slide of a Best Buy advertisement with photos of similar looking phones made by several different companies. "It's not against the law in this country to be inspired by your competition."

Japan back to trade deficit, $6.5 billion in July

TOKYO (AP)—Japan slipped back into a trade deficit in July, as exports languished and imports of gas and generating equipment surged, the Ministry of Finance reported Wednesday.

The deficit was 517.4 billion yen ($6.5 billion) in July, according to provisional trade figures. That compares with a 69.7 billion yen surplus a year earlier and a modest surplus of 62 million yen in June of this year.

Exports fell 8 percent from a year earlier in July to 5.3 trillion yen ($66.9 billion), while imports rose 2 percent to 5.83 trillion yen ($73.6 billion), the ministry said.

Japan has managed to eke out small trade surpluses in some months over the last year, but reported a record annual trade deficit for the fiscal year that ended in March.

The strong Japanese yen has hurt exports, as have disruptions caused by last year's earthquake and tsunami disaster in northeastern Japan, which hampered production of autos and electronics.

Exports have also suffered from weaker European demand due to the debt crisis.

A look at the figures for July shows sharp drops in exports of consumer electronics, customarily a mainstay for Japan's economy.

Total exports to Western Europe plunged 28 percent in July from a year earlier, while exports to the rest of Asia fell 9 percent. Exports to North America rose 5 percent, and those to the Middle East rose 9 percent.

Japan posted its biggest half-year trade deficit ever in January-June—2.9 trillion yen ($37.4 billion)—as exports weakened and fuel imports soared to keep power going despite shutdowns of most of the country's nuclear reactors.

All but two of Japan's 50 working reactors remain offline after the nuclear crisis set off in March 2011 by a massive earthquake and tsunami, leaving the country more reliant than in the past on imported oil, gas and coal to supply electricity.

Japan's imports of liquefied natural gas jumped 24 percent from a year earlier in July, while imports of power generating machinery rose 39 percent.

Power conservation efforts have boosted sales of electric fans and bamboo sunshades, most made in China, as families switch off air conditioners while trying to beat the heat, the Japan External Trade Organization reported.

USDA eyes whether tainted beef entered food supply

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—Federal regulators who shut down a Central California slaughterhouse after receiving an animal welfare video were investigating Tuesday whether beef from sick cows reached the human food supply.

The video appears to show workers bungling the slaughter of cows struggling to walk and even stand. Under federal regulations, sick animals cannot be slaughtered for human consumption.

The investigation will determine whether sick cows were slaughtered and whether meat products from the company should be recalled, a spokesman for the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service said.

The agency suspended operations Monday at Central Valley Meat Co. in Hanford after receiving the video Friday from the animal welfare group Compassion Over Killing. The footage shows animals bleeding and thrashing after being repeatedly shot in the head with a pneumatic gun in unsuccessful efforts to render them unconscious for slaughter.

Federal regulations say that to avoid unnecessary suffering during slaughter, animals must be rendered unconscious by a single shot to the head from a pneumatic gun that fires a bolt through the skull to pierce the brain.

The USDA said late Tuesday that it found evidence of inhumane practices on the video, but the footage did not indicate beef from sick cattle got into the food system. However, the investigation is continuing.

"We have not substantiated a food safety violation at this time. We are aggressively continuing to investigate the allegations," said Al Almanza, administrator of the Food Safety and Inspection Service.

In-N-Out Burger, a fast food chain, severed its ties with the company after learning about the situation. Mark Taylor, chief operating officer, said Tuesday the company acted immediately upon becoming aware of it.

"In-N-Out Burger would never condone the inhumane treatment of animals and all of our suppliers must agree to abide by our strict standards for the humane treatment of cattle," Taylor said to The Associated Press in a written statement.

Nation

Mo. congressman defies GOP leaders to stay in race

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP)—Rep. Todd Akin defied the nation's top Republicans Tuesday and forged ahead with his besieged Senate bid, declaring the party was overreacting to his comments that women's bodies can prevent pregnancies in cases of "legitimate rape" and by insisting he abandon his campaign.

Akin pledged to carry on with his quest to unseat Democrat Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri. But his bid faced tall obstacles: a lack of money, a lack of party support and no assurance that his apologies would be enough to heal a self-inflicted political wound.

AP

This Aug. 10, 2012 file photo shows Todd Akin, Republican candidate for U.S. Senator from Missouri taking questions after speaking at the Missouri Farm Bureau candidate interview and endorsement meeting in Jefferson City, Mo.

"I misspoke one word in one sentence on one day, and all of a sudden, overnight, everybody decides, `Well, Akin can't possibly win,'" he said on a national radio show hosted by former Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee. "Well, I don't agree with that."

Akin predicted he would bounce back from the political crisis threatening his campaign, including a call from presumptive presidential nominee Mitt Romney to leave the race, and capture a seat that is pivotal to Republican hopes of regaining control of the Senate.

"I'm in this race for the long haul, and we're going to win it," he told radio host Dana Loesch in St. Louis.

Obama criticizes Romney over college assistance

RENO, Nev. (AP)—President Barack Obama accused rival Mitt Romney of being oblivious to the burdens of paying for college on Tuesday, telling young voters in battleground Ohio that his opponent's education policies amount to nothing more than encouraging them to tap their parents for money or "shop around" for the best deal.

"This is his plan. That's his answer to a young person hoping to go to college—shop around and borrow more money from your parents if you have to. Not only is that not a good answer, it's not even an answer," Obama said at Truckee Meadows Community College in Reno.

Turning to young voters, a key part of his 2008 coalition, the president sought to draw a bright line with Romney on education policy in his latest attempt to meld Romney with the House Republican budget blueprint offered Rep. Paul Ryan, Romney's running mate.

Earlier, at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, he said: "Not everybody has parents who have the money to lend. That may be news to some folks."

Obama and Romney remain locked in a tight presidential campaign a week before the former Massachusetts governor formally claims his party's nomination at the GOP convention in Tampa, Fla. Both campaigns have broadened their message to voters in recent weeks beyond the economy, which remains the most pivotal issue for voters less than three months before the election.

Romney sought to distance himself from Missouri GOP Senate nominee Todd Akin, who apologized after saying in an interview that women's bodies are sometimes able to prevent pregnancies after what he called "a legitimate rape." Romney said in a statement that fellow Missouri Republicans had urged Akin to quit and "I think he should accept their counsel and exit the Senate race."

ACROSS THE NATION

50 buildings destroyed in Northern Calif. fire

MANTON, Calif. (AP)—Dozens of buildings, many of them likely homes, have been destroyed in recent days a fire burning outside the Northern California community of Manton, fire officials said Tuesday night. Fire crews assessing the rural area determined Tuesday that 50 buildings had been destroyed, state fire spokesman Daniel Berlant said. The count included buildings burned since the fire began, but officials did not say when the structures were destroyed. Officials didn't have an accurate count yet of how many of the structures were homes, but Berlant noted the buildings were spread across a vast rural area of mostly residential homes.

Child accused in Calif. murder won't stand trial

SAN DIEGO (AP)—An 11-year-old boy accused of stabbing his playmate to death has been found mentally incompetent and won't stand trial on murder charges. A juvenile court judge concluded the boy suffered from mental health problems and developmental issues brought on by fetal alcohol syndrome, U-T San Diego reported Tuesday. A Sept. 18 hearing has been scheduled to determine which residential treatment facility the boy will be sent. The boy was 10 when he was charged with murder and felony assault in the Jan. 16 death of a 12-year-old. The victim was a sixth grader when he was fatally stabbed in the suspect's driveway.

Woman found dead in Ariz. home with 31 cats

MESA, Ariz. (AP)—A woman has been found dead in her suburban Phoenix home where she lived with 31 cats. Maricopa County sheriff's deputies were forced to wear breathing equipment to enter the residence in Mesa, Ariz., early Tuesday. They had been called to check on 64-year-old Maria Elena Cimino. It's unclear how long Cimino had been dead, but authorities say she apparently died of natural causes. Sheriff's officials say it appears the woman was a hoarder and the home was in poor condition.

Asia

Americans tune out Afghan war as fighting rages on

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—It was once President Barack Obama's "war of necessity." Now, it's America's forgotten war.

The Afghan conflict generates barely a whisper on the U.S. presidential campaign trail. It's not a hot topic at the office water cooler or in the halls of Congress—even though more than 80,000 American troops are still fighting here and dying at a rate of one a day.

Americans show more interest in the economy and taxes than the latest suicide bombings in a different, distant land. They're more tuned in to the political ad war playing out on television than the deadly fight still raging against the Taliban. Earlier this month, protesters at the Iowa State Fair chanted "Stop the war!" They were referring to one purportedly being waged against the middle class.

By the time voters go to the polls Nov. 6 to choose between Obama and presumptive Republican nominee Mitt Romney, the war will be in its 12th year. For most Americans, that's long enough.

Public opinion remains largely negative toward the war, with 66 percent opposed to it and just 27 percent in favor in a May AP-GfK poll. More recently, a Quinnipiac University poll found that 60 percent of registered voters felt the U.S. should no longer be involved in Afghanistan. Just 31 percent said the U.S. is doing the right thing by fighting there now.

Not since the Korean War of the early 1950s—a much shorter but more intense fight—has an armed conflict involving America's sons and daughters captured so little public attention.

"We're bored with it," said Matthew Farwell, who served in the U.S. Army for five years including 16 months in eastern Afghanistan, where he sometimes received letters from grade school students addressed to the brave Marines in Iraq—the wrong war.

"We all laugh about how no one really cares," he said. "All the `support the troops' stuff is bumper sticker deep."

Farwell, 29, who is now studying at the University of Virginia, said the war is rarely a topic of conversation on campus—and he isn't surprised that it's not discussed much on the campaign trail.

"No one understands how to extricate ourselves from the mess we have made there," he said. "So from a purely political point of view, I wouldn't be talking about it if I were Barack Obama or Mitt Romney either."

Ignoring the Afghan war, though, doesn't make it go away.

More than 1,950 Americans have died in Afghanistan and thousands more have been wounded since President George W. Bush launched attacks on Oct. 7, 2001 to rout al-Qaida after it used Afghanistan to train recruits and plot the Sept. 11 attacks that killed nearly 3,000 Americans.

Afghan rockets damage US general's plane

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An insurgent rocket attack damaged the plane of the top U.S. general as it sat parked at a coalition base in Afghanistan on Tuesday, dealing another blow to the image of progress in building a stable country as foreign forces work to wind down the 10-year-old war.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the two rockets that landed near the C-17 transport plane that U.S. Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, flew into Bagram Air Field north of Kabul on a day earlier. The claim was an attempt by the insurgents to score more propaganda points in what has been a deadly few weeks for the international coalition in Afghanistan.

Jamie Graybeal, a spokesman for the U.S. military and the international coalition, said Dempsey was in his staff quarters when the two rockets landed and was unhurt in the attack. But the damage to the plane forced Dempsey to use another aircraft for his flight from Bagram to Iraq on Tuesday.

Two aircraft maintenance workers were lightly wounded by shrapnel, and a nearby helicopter was damaged, Graybeal said.

Dempsey was in Afghanistan for talks with military leaders about the war as well as a disturbing rash of killings of U.S. military trainers by their Afghan partners or militants dressed in Afghan uniform.

Such turncoat attacks—which the Taliban also said they are behind—killed 10 Americans in the last two weeks alone, threatening morale and raising questions about the strategy to train Afghan security forces so they can fight the insurgency after foreign troops end their combat role in 2014.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid issued a statement Tuesday claiming Dempsey's aircraft was targeted by insurgents "using exact information" about its whereabouts.

Graybeal, however, rejected the claim, saying insurgent rocket and mortar attacks are "not infrequent" at Bagram and that such fire most often comes from so far away that it's virtually impossible to hit specific targets.

Pentagon spokeswoman Maj. Cathy Wilkinson also denied the strike was aimed specifically at Dempsey's plane. "Indirect fire at Bagram is not unusual, so we don't believe his aircraft was targeted."

Bagram, a sprawling complex that covers about 21 square kilometers (8 square miles) and houses tens of thousands of troops, is about an hour's drive north of Kabul, and usually serves as the first point of entrance for U.S. officials visiting the country. It is the hub for military operations in the east of the country and the largest U.S. base in Afghanistan.

ASIAN BRIEFS

NKorea completes key step in reactor construction

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A new satellite image shows North Korea has completed a key step in the construction of a light-water reactor at its main nuclear complex, though it may take several more years before it is fully operational, an analyst said Tuesday. North Korea says the reactor being built since 2010 at its Yongbyon complex is for electricity generation. But some experts have questioned the North's intention since the reactor would give the country a reason to enrich uranium that could be used in nuclear bombs at higher levels. North Korea revealed an industrial-scale uranium enrichment facility in 2010 and has vowed to bolster its nuclear capability, citing what it calls hostile U.S. policies toward the country.

Turkmenistan formally ends 1-party system

ASHGABAT, Turkmenistan (AP)—Turkmenistan has formally ended its one-party system with the creation of a business-oriented political party. But the new group's arrival is unlikely to substantively lead to democratization in the authoritarian state. The TDH state news agency said Tuesday that 300 delegates from business groups around the ex-Soviet Central Asian nation attended the founding congress of the Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan. Elections to be held in 2013 look likely to formally end the Democratic Party's two-decade-long monopoly in parliament. The Democratic Party was created on the basis of the dissolved Communist Party in 1991.

World

Assad's regime steps up use of air power

BEIRUT (AP)—Its forces stretched thin on multiple fronts, President Bashar Assad's regime has significantly increased its use of air power against Syrian rebels in recent weeks, causing a spike in civilian casualties.

The shift is providing useful clues about the capability of the Syrian air force as Western powers consider the option of enforcing a no-fly zone over the northern part of the country, where rebels control large swaths of territory along the Turkish border.

■■■

A Syrian government official warned the United States Tuesday that military intervention in Syria could lead to regional turmoil as regime forces bombed a northern village and stormed a rebel-held Damascus suburb, killing dozens of people, activists said.

The comments came a day after President Barack Obama said the U.S would reconsider its opposition to military involvement in the Syrian civil war if Bashar Assad's government deploys or uses chemical or biological weapons, describing it as a "red line" for the United States.

AP

This Tuesday, July 31, 2012 file photo image made from amateur video released by the Ugarit News purports to show black smoke rising from buildings in Aleppo, Syria.

Syrian Deputy Prime Minister Qadri Jamil called Obama's statements "propagandistic threats" made in connection with the U.S. presidential election. But Jamil also said the comments indicate that the West is looking for a pretext to intervene militarily.

■■■

If a no-fly zone is enforced, Western aircraft will likely go head-to-head with the Syrian air force as well as try to neutralize, at least partially, its air defense system.

"It is certainly a sign of increased concern on the part of the regime," said senior political scientist Christopher S. Chivvis of the Rand Corporation. "The growing use of air power, particularly fixed-wing aircraft, raises the possibility of foreign intervention."

U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said Aug. 14 that plans to set up a no-fly zone over parts of Syria is "not on the front burner," despite persistent calls from rebel forces there that they need the added protection from escalating regime airstrikes in the civil war.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has said that the U.S. and Turkey are discussing a range of steps, including a no-fly zone over some parts of Syria. Russia, Assad's main foreign backer, opposes a no-fly zone.

Israel says Egypt violating peace treaty in Sinai

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel objected Tuesday to a move by Egypt's new leaders to deploy tanks in a volatile border area, calling the action a violation of the landmark 1979 peace accord between the two nations.

The spat is the biggest test yet of the peace agreement—a cornerstone of regional stability—since Egypt's Islamist president took power in June, and plays into Israeli fears that the treaty could be threatened down the road.

Egypt has been building up its military presence in the lawless Sinai desert since Islamic militants there attacked an army post on Aug. 5 and killed 16 soldiers.

Israel, itself a frequent target of Islamic extremists based in Sinai, has welcomed the crackdown. But officials say significant military moves by Egypt must be coordinated, giving Israel a veto of sorts over Egyptian security strategy.

Under the peace accord, Egypt is allowed to have only lightly armed policemen in the zone along the border with Israel. Limited numbers of tanks are permitted only in a zone on the far western side of the peninsula, within 30 miles (50 kilometers) of the Suez Canal.

Israel agreed last year to exceptions to the treaty, allowing Egypt's military to deploy troops with heavier weaponry into the most sensitive zone of eastern Sinai close to the Israeli border. Israel made similar exceptions during its withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005.

Egyptian troops moved into the eastern Sinai after the Aug. 5 attack, backed by armored personnel carriers and attack helicopters, in coordination with the Israelis.

But Israeli officials said Tuesday that Egypt's deployment in recent days of heavier U.S.-made M60 tanks went further than agreed and violated the accord.

Website of court that sentenced Pussy Riot hacked

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian hackers on Tuesday attacked the website of the Moscow court where three members of the Pussy Riot punk band were tried and sentenced to two years in prison for an irreverent protest.

The Russian offshoot of the loose-knit movement known as Anonymous tweeted that it had taken down the website of the Khamovniki district court.

According to search engines' cached pages, the hackers posted Pussy Riot's latest song ridiculing President Vladimir Putin on the website, along with calls to release the band members. One headline read: "Putin's thieving gang is robbing our country! Wake up, comrades!"

The website—hamovnichesky.msk.sudrf.ru—was not available later Tuesday.

Court spokeswoman Darya Lyakh said the Supreme Court would demand the hackers face criminal charges.

The three female band members were punished for a provocative stunt in February at Moscow's main cathedral in which they asked the Virgin Mary to deliver Russia from Putin, who was elected to a third term two weeks later.

Their trial caused an international furor, and small but raucous protests were held around the world Friday when the women were convicted and sentenced. Celebrities including Paul McCartney, Madonna and Bjork have called for them to be freed.

Focus

AP

Pedestrians walk outside a pawn shop offering money for gold, in Athens, on Monday, Aug. 20, 2012.

Europe's leaders face post-holiday blues

By BARRY HATTON
Associated Press

After their holidays spent soaking up the August sun, Europe's political leaders are bracing themselves for storm clouds this fall.

The latest economic figures show that Europe is edging closer to recession, dragged down by the crippling debt problems of the 17 countries that use the euro.

These debt troubles have tormented the eurozone for close to three years and so far have defied leaders' efforts to fix them. And the longer they take to resolve, the bigger they get.

Leaders from France, Germany and Greece all meet later on this week in the latest round of shuttle diplomacy to attempt to put a lid on the eurozone's debt crisis.

Six eurozone countries—Greece, Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Portugal and Malta—are already in recession and others look feeble.

Europe's stumbling economy is hurting recovery in other parts of the world. The European Union recorded a gross domestic product last year of $15.5 trillion—slightly more than the U.S.'s output. It is also a major source of sales for the world's leading companies. Any further economic problems would be felt in order books back in the U.S. and China.

Forty percent of McDonald's global revenue comes from Europe—more than it generates in the U.S. The company reported a 0.6 percent slump in meals served in Europe last month. Ford Motor Co. warned last week that auto industry sales in the region through July were the lowest in 17 years.

The eurozone has already provided billion in loans and financial aid to keep Greece, Ireland and Portugal from defaulting on their debts. And now markets are worried that recession-hit Spain and Italy could soon be asking for assistance. Meanwhile, public anger over austerity measures and unemployment is spreading, and a key court ruling on the eurozone's crucial new bailout fund is due in Germany.

"September is going to be extremely busy," said Antonio Barroso, an analyst with the Eurasia Group political risk consultancy. "The potential for negative news is definitely there."

Here are some of the key events anticipated in the coming months that could alter the temperature and the tempo of Europe's financial crisis:

GREECE

Greece is in its fifth year of recession. The economy is likely to contract another 7 percent this year, and unemployment is nearing 24 percent. Debt inspectors from the organizations that oversee Greece's bailout program—the "troika" of the International Monetary Fund, European Union and European Central Bank—are set to return to Athens in early September to finalize yet another round of austerity measures.

Greece has been kept afloat by bailouts from its European partners and the IMF since May 2010, after it found it impossible to pay off its debts on its own. The rescue loans came in exchange for harsh austerity measures and reforms to its public sector. The country's debt stands at more than (EURO)300 billion ($369 billion), and the economy is struggling through a fifth year of recession with unemployment at above 23 percent.

But the cash lifeline has been disrupted by months of political instability- that were resolved, for now, after two national elections—during which the austerity and reform process lagged severely. As a result, the next (EURO)31 billion installment, if approved by bailout creditors following a review of the country's finances, has been delayed until next month at the earliest.

To qualify for that payment, Greece's eight-week-old coalition government must identify by the end of the month a new round of budget cuts worth (EURO)11.5 billion for 2013 and 2014.

Officials have said this is likely to include additional cuts in pensions and the initial sums paid out on retirement. Greece has also promised to reduce its 750,000-strong workforce in the civil service and the broader public sector by 150,000 by the end of 2015.

Many in the country are worried that the continuing decline in living standards could result in a repeat of violent streets protests witnessed in recent years.

If the troika finds Greece is not sticking to the terms of the bailout agreement, it could hold off vital funding, forcing the country into a chaotic default on its debt. This could push the country out of the eurozone, further destabilizing the region.

Europe's finance ministers meet Sept. 14 and 15 in Cyprus to discuss Greece and its prospects.

SPAIN

The first batches of a loan worth up to (EURO)100 billion for Spain's debt-stressed banks are due to be sent to Madrid from the other 16 eurozone countries in the coming weeks, bringing some short-term relief for a country battling to avoid a full-blown bailout.

Spanish banks are sitting on an estimated (EURO)200 billion in toxic assets following the collapse of the country's real estate boom. The government is set to approve Aug. 24 a new law creating a "bad bank" which will pool the toxic assets. The results of a comprehensive audit of the Spanish banking sector are expected next month.

While those steps may help alleviate the financial sector's immediate problems, Spain—whose economy is five times larger than Greece's—is broadly expected in the coming months to become the fifth eurozone member to need a bailout.

On top of the problems with the banks, some of Spain's regional governments have overspent and are turning to the federal authorities for help. Some estimates put the regions' combined debt at (EURO)140 billion. The country is in a double-dip recession and unemployment is at nearly 25 percent. There have also been public protests at the government's (EURO)65 billion package of tax hikes and spending cuts.

The country is finding fewer and fewer buyers for its debt, with investors charging the country increasingly higher rates so that it can borrow the money it needs to keep the economy and public services working.

Earlier this month, European Central Bank President Mario Draghi said the ECB was ready to unleash its financial might and buy government bonds to help drive down borrowing costs in debt-ridden countries such as Spain—on the condition that governments approach the eurozone's emergency bailout funds for assistance first.

Mariano Rajoy's government has so far tried hard to avoid the political indignity of asking for financial help, which usually implies surrendering some degree of sovereignty over a country's financial affairs. However, two weeks ago Rajoy edged closer to asking for a bailout when he told reporters that he would consider asking for aid for his country only once the ECB has fleshed out its crisis-fighting plans for buying government bonds.

Draghi has said the ECB's plans for helping out governments would be announced in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, German Chancellor Angela Merkel is to visit Madrid on Sept. 6.

ITALY

Mario Monti is in a race against the clock. Italy's unelected premier and his technocratic government, appointed by Parliament last November to put the eurozone's third-largest economy back on a path to fiscal health, have until next spring to conclude their task. Elections are scheduled for the first half of the year—most likely, April—after which Monti's team hands over power to the new government.

After a short period of calm at the beginning of the year—when Monti took over and the ECB flooded the market with (EURO)1 trillion in cheap loans that banks used to buy government debt—Italian borrowing rates have been climbing amid market uncertainty about the wider eurozone and Italy's high debt load. The ECB and Draghi also had Italy in mind when they were drawing up plans to help bring down countries' borrowing costs.

The Bank of Italy said national debt reached a record (EURO)1.972 trillion in June, up from (EURO)1.966 trillion the previous month—that's 123 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

The government says its priority immediately after the summer break is reducing the stock of public debt and pruning public sector waste.

Monti's measures have antagonized many. In his attempts to break down barriers to entry for certain professions that he claims are stifling economic growth, he has taken on powerful lobbies. They include such professions as bakers, taxi drivers, pharmacists, lawyers, notaries, railroad workers and newsstand dealers.

On top of this, some of the parties in the Italian Parliament—in particular former premier Silvio Berlusconi's People of Freedom Party—have brought up the possibility of early elections. Any hint that Italy's chronic political instability could return would worsen its standing with investors.

GERMANY

Leaders of the eurozone hope their plans for a (EURO)500 billion permanent bailout fund, the European Stability Mechanism, will be the antidote to their financial problems. Germany—the eurozone's biggest economy and therefore the biggest contributor to the fund—was one of the main architects of the new fund and the fiscal stability pact, a treaty that lays down strict budget rules.

The ESM and the pact need to be ratified by the 17 eurozone countries. Several leaders and politicians from the bloc's economically sounder members—such as Germany, the Netherlands and Finland—have been showing worsening symptoms of "bailout fatigue" with repeated calls for the rescues to stop.

German dissenters have filed complaints at the country's highest court, which is to rule Sept. 12 on whether it should issue an injunction to delay the ESM's introduction so it can decide whether the fund interferes with Germany's sovereignty. If it chooses to issue the injunction Europe's grand plan for recovery could easily be scuppered.

"A significant postponement of the setup of the ESM ... could mean a serious unsettling of markets far beyond Germany and a serious loss of confidence in the eurozone," Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble warned the court's panel of eight judges.

PORTUGAL

Inspectors from the troika, who granted Portugal a (EURO)78 billion bailout last year, are due back in Lisbon on Aug. 28 to review how well the country is managing its economy. They will encounter a country that is enduring deep hardship and is likely to need more help.

The coalition government has won praise for sticking to the terms of the financial rescue agreement signed in May 2011. It has introduced deep spending cuts and adopted key economic reforms.

But the government forecasts an economic contraction of 3 percent in 2012, bringing a third recession in four years, and unemployment has risen to a record 15.2 percent. Opposition parties and trade unions say austerity is to blame.

Bailout lenders may have to grant Portugal more time—perhaps an extra year—to meet its debt targets.

FRANCE

Investors will be keenly watching France—the eurozone's second-largest economy—from September when the country's new Socialist government unveils its 2013 spending plans.

President Francois Hollande has pledged to cut the deficit from its current 5.2 percent of GDP to 3 percent.

But it won't be easy: an independent audit of the country's finances says Hollande will have to find an extra (EURO)33 billion if he's going to keep that promise—and that's assuming 1 percent growth next year. Government statistics show the economy was stagnant in the second quarter, the third straight quarter it hasn't grown.

So far the government has decided not to cut spending to reach the deficit goal—opting instead to raises taxes on the higher earners and rolling back some of the labor reforms of the previous Sarkozy administration.

Markets are worried that France's new government has not fully recognized the extent of its problems.

Environment

MCT
Consider freezing a few make-ahead meals created with those summer ingredients to save time, energy and money.

Do Your Part

By TERRI BENNETT
MCT INFORMATION SERVICES

Seasonal foods and planning

My friend Lindsay did something fabulously simple last week. So simple in fact, I can't believe I didn't think of it first. She took fresh-from-the-market ears of corn, sliced off the kernels and scooped them into a bag that she tossed into her freezer next to other similar ones. Now, this taste of summer goodness is easily available all year long for her family. It's proof that with just a little planning, it's painless to eat seasonal and locally grown foods every month of year.

Think about all the resources it takes to ship out of seasonal foods to your grocery store. The fuel and energy used in the process can be mind-boggling. It is also makes it much more expensive to buy those non-seasonal foods. Many fruits and veggies will last eight to 12 months in the freezer without any loss in taste or quality. The ones that can go right into the freezer without any extra work are produce such as berries and peppers. Others that may require blanching first include squash and green beans. Take note that those quart size plastic freezer bags will usually hold enough produce to serve two people. Choose gallon size ones for larger families. You can find more specific freezing recommendations at DoYourPart.com/Columns.

You may want to also consider freezing a few make-ahead meals created with those summer ingredients to save time, energy and money. For instance, I visit my favorite farmer's market during the summer and stock up on tomatoes. Since tomatoes on their own don't usually freeze well, I make big batches of tomato sauce with them and always have the perfect sauce to use for pasta, soups and lasagna in the months to come. Sauces aren't the only things that freeze well. So do casseroles and soups. When freezing meals, make sure they are put in airtight containers to avoid freezer burn. Most meals can stay in your freezer for up to three months. Mark them with the date so you use the oldest first.

One other tip for those make-ahead meals is to incorporate grocery store sale items in them to save even more money. If chicken, beef or organic produce is on sale, you can create two good meals for a whole lot less than you normally would spend. Making double batches also means you'll use less overall time and energy.

A little planning and preparation is all you need to enjoy the tastiest flavors of the season all year long. It's another way to Do Your Part while enjoying a home-cooked meal, saving time and conserving resources. Bon appetit!

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of "Do Your Part," a practical guide for everyday green living available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com

Well worth the time

By VINCENT DELOS REYES
CORAL REEF INITIATIVE INTERN

Hello, hafa adai, and tirow! My name is Vincent Delos Reyes and I am currently an intern under the Coral Reef Initiative program at the office of Coastal Resources Management. I am also currently enrolled at the Northern Marianas College, majoring under the field of Natural Resources Management. The Coral Reef Initiative is a program that offers a grant, provided by the federal government, to fund and allow environmental enthusiasts an opportunity to learn, gain unique skills, and discover more about our islands marine ecosystem and natural resources. This year's internship marks my second appearance with this wonderful program. Since the program started and now closing in, I was given responsibilities and tasks to carry out. I want to share some if these fun and unforgettable experiences and projects I have accomplished.

First of all, I was given the title of Education and Outreach assistant coordinator at Coastal Resources Management office. For the first couple of weeks I started out with no mentor. I was later then introduced to Nicole Schafer, who is new to the agency and now CRM's main Education and Outreach Coordinator. Prior to Nicole's appearance I was continuing my work on a project that I started from my last employment here at CRM. I was to monitor and keep track of all active and abandoned trash and recycle bins around our coastal areas. The purpose to this project is to keep data of all responsible and irresponsible bin donors and also dispose all neglected bins and replace them with new ones. With neglected trash and recycle bins not being catered to, it puts out a massive eyesore for not only the people of CNMI, but also our visiting friends and tourists. Another major affect of neglected bins is debris ending up in our ocean. Not emptying out trash bins consistently will lead to overflow of trash around our beaches. It will eventually end up in our waters and consequently damage our islands marine environment. Now, we don't want that right? Linking to the trash bin project, I am also waiting for approval for funds that I requested for a certified fabrication company to build trash bin "elevators." The purpose for the "elevators" is to prevent bins from corroding underneath and to elevate the bins high above the ground so stray animals won't have a chance to get in and scatter the trash. Working on this project demands a lot of field work. I am constantly away in the field (beaches) monitoring and surveying. Each time I'm out, I learn to appreciate the beauty that was given to us naturally, our beaches.

Another exciting project that I accomplished is coordinating beach cleanups with Kagman High Schools Biology Club. Annette Chong, who is KHS' Bio Club point person, insisted that we tackle their adopted beach, which is Marine Beach located in Kagman. Upon the two sessions of cleanups, we were so saddened and overwhelmed by the amount of debris that was present. However, both sessions turned out to be a major success and we managed to collect a total of 350 lbs of trash. About 70 percent of the debris collected was hard plastics from all sorts, such as bottles, bottle caps, and other miscellaneous hard plastics. I give much thanks and respect to KHS' Bio Club for dedicating their time and being responsible with their Adopt a Beach pledge. With more volunteers like them, we can assure all that a step is taken to preserve our natural environment.

Lastly, I am currently working with Nicole on some outreach resources for CRM. It includes us upgrading all of CRM's education and outreach materials, such as improving and remodeling all of CRM's poster advertisements as well as getting appraisals for outreach materials such as stickers, pencils, spray bottles, bags, sanitation kits, and T-shirts. I tackled these by utilizing all the past vendors that I worked with before during my last employment here at CRM and got quotes that are suitable and well worth purchasing. The only downfalls of these tasks are they are very time consuming and with the internship coming to an end I will surely try my best to accomplish them.

To sum it all up, I am very fortunate for such opportunities given to me. Being part of a team and accomplishing all the tasks given is overwhelming. The experiences and friendship I made will stay with me forever. I have always had the passion for our island's natural environment and with our island being blessed with natural beauties, I feel like I, and we all, should be more responsible and give in a little more time and respect to our natural surroundings.

Life & Style

Authorities amend Natalie Wood's death certificate

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Natalie Wood's death certificate has been changed to reflect some of the uncertainties and lingering questions surrounding the actress' drowning more than 30 years ago in the Pacific Ocean off Southern California.

The document was amended earlier this month and shifts Wood's death from an accidental drowning to "drowning and other undetermined factors," according to a copy of the certificate obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press.

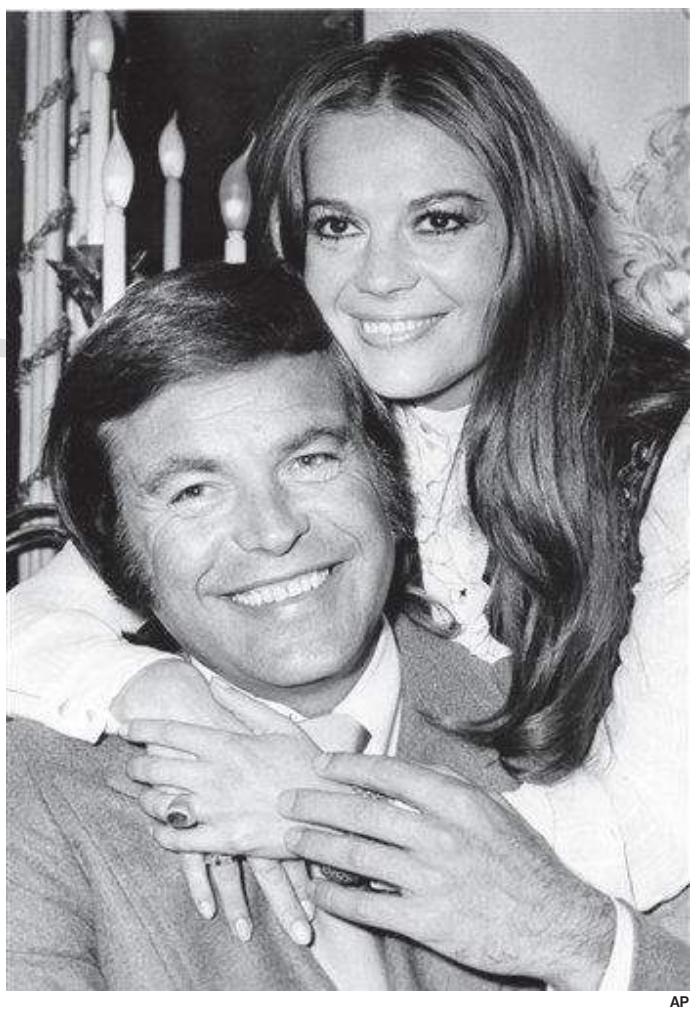
The amended document also now states that the circumstances of how Wood ended up in the waters off Catalina Island in November 1981 are "not clearly established."

The changes occurred nine months after sheriff's homicide investigators renewed their inquiry into Wood's death shortly before its 30th anniversary.

Chief of Detectives William McSweeney said the decision to amend the death certificate was ultimately made by the coroner's office, which has been instructed by detectives not to discuss the case. "I would just say undetermined is descriptive," he said.

McSweeney said detectives still have work to do on the case, but that doesn't necessarily mean that a major shift is coming.

"We don't close these cases," he said. "These cases have active periods and more passive periods. We're moving toward the end of an active period."



AP

In this April 23, 1972 file photo, actor Robert Wagner and his former wife, actress Natalie Wood, pose at the Dorchester Hotel in London, England.

The changes to the death certificate were approved by Los Angeles County Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran in late June, but they were not formally recorded until Aug. 1. The certificate wasn't made public until just recently.

Conflicting versions of what happened on the yacht shared by Wood, her actor-husband Robert Wagner and their friend, actor Christopher Walken, have contributed to the mystery of how the actress died on Thanksgiving weekend in 1981. Authorities have said Wagner is not a suspect in his wife's death.

Investigators re-opened the case last November but have released few details about its progress. They traveled to Hawaii to inspect the Splendour, the yacht the trio was aboard on the night of Wood's disappearance.

The renewed inquiry came after the boat's captain, Dennis Davern, told "48 Hours Mystery" and the "Today" show that he heard Wagner and Wood arguing the night of her disappearance and believed Wagner was to blame for her death.

Wagner wrote in a 2008 memoir that he and Walken argued that night. He wrote that Walken went to bed and he stayed up for a while, but when he went to bed, he noticed that his wife and a dinghy attached to the yacht were missing.

Wagner has said through a spokesman that he expects the sheriff's department to conduct a fair investigation. An email seeking comment Tuesday was not returned.

Kimmel moving into thick of late-night fight

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Jimmy Kimmel Live" is moving into the thick of the late-night fight against Jay Leno and David Letterman, ABC said Tuesday, bumping "Nightline" from its longtime perch.

Starting in January, Kimmel's talk show will shift from 12:05 a.m. Eastern to the 11:35 p.m. Eastern time period long held by the newsmagazine, taking advantage of Kimmel's ratings growth and the potential for greater ad revenue, the network said.

Kimmel

"Nightline" will move to 12:35 a.m. Eastern. ABC softened the blow for its news division by giving the half-hour show a weekly prime-time hour starting in March, and also will find a home for the ABC News series "What Would You Do?"

The network is rolling the dice, taking ratings winner "Nightline" out of a competitive time slot and putting in yet another talk show. Besides network rivals Leno and Letterman, the hour is home to Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert on Comedy Central, Conan O'Brien on TBS and Chelsea Handler on E! Entertainment.

Kimmel said he is ready for the challenge.

"The most exciting thing is having a bigger audience," he said. "You work all day on the show and you want as many people to see you as possible."

Letterman graciously welcomed him to the fray.

"The more the merrier. We like Jimmy, we know he'll do a fine program, and we wish him well," he said in a statement.

Kimmel, newly engaged to Molly McNearney, his show's co-head writer, and set to host next month's Emmy Awards, is having a run of good fortune. But the droll comedian wouldn't admit to savoring it.

"My way of thinking is when all these good things happen, it means something terrible will happen," he said. "I'm cautiously pessimistic."

"Jimmy Kimmel Live" and "Nightline" will switch late-night slots on Jan. 8, and the news magazine will debut in prime time on March 1.

"Given the passionate fan base `Jimmy Kimmel Live' has built over the past decade, and the show's ratings and creative momentum this season, the time is right to make this move," Anne Sweeney, co-chair, Disney Media Networks and president, Disney-ABC Television Group, said in a statement.

Kimmel's show increased its viewership by 3 percent last season, the only such growth among network late-night talk shows, ABC said.

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Mass and public viewing will be held on Saturday, August 25, 2012, 3:00pm at the Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel, Cabrera Center, Beach Road Garapan.

His remains will be flown to the Philippines on August 26, 2012 where he be laid to eternal rest.

The family would like to express their heartfelt appreciation to the following:

Fe Cabrera, Hong Electric, Auto Marine, Saipan Cock Pit, N.I.C., Cafe Air, Rajambelle Auto Shop, El Shaddai Community, Diamond Motors, Shanni Laundry, Bayani Organization, Ernst & Young, Star Water, Water Company, NAPA, Mr. Suave, Michelle Furniture, Happy Market, Herman's Bakery, Jimmy B (KWAW) and to all our friends, kumare and kumpare.

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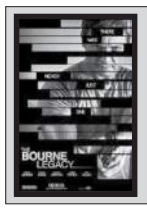
NOW SHOWING

The Expendables 2
Thursday 4:10 7:05
Cast: Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham, Jet Li
Action • Rated R

Synopsis
The Expendables return with a vengeance after Tool (Mickey Rourke) departs for a dangerous mission, and comes home in a body bag. But as the battle hardened mercenaries set out to bury the men who murdered their fallen comrade, Tool's volatile daughter Fiona seeks bloody vengeance on her own terms. Later, when Fiona gets abducted by a brutal dictator who's been backed into a corner, Barney (Sylvester Stallone) and his men prepare to strike back with everything they've got.

Paranorman
Thursday 4:15 7:15
Cast: Susan Dudeck, Donna Lynn Leavy
Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis
Writer/director Chris Butler puts his experience working on Coraline and Tim Burton's The Corpse Bride to good use in this charmingly morbid tale of an eccentric young hero facing supernatural forces that would make most grown-ups cower in fear. Featuring the voices of Casey Affleck, Jeff Garlin, John Goodman, Anna Kendrick, Leslie Mann, an...



Bourne Legacy
Thursday 4:00 7:00
Cast: Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz
Spy film, Action • Rated PG13

The Campaign
Thursday 4:30 7:30
Cast: Will Ferrell, Zach Galifianakis
Comedy • Rated R

Total Recall
Thursday 4:25 7:25
Cast: Colin Farrell, Kate Beckinsale, Jessica Biel
Science, Fiction • Rated PG13

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days
Thursday 4:20 7:20
Cast: Zachary Gordon, Devon Bostick
Children's/family • Rated PG

The Dark Knight Rises
Thursday 4:05 7:10
Cast: Christian Bale, Michael Caine
Crime, Action • Rated PG13

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Avril Lavigne to marry Nickelback frontman

AP

In this Aug. 7, 2011 file photo, Avril Lavigne arrives at the Teen Choice Awards in Universal City, Calif.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Avril Lavigne and Nickelback frontman Chad Kroeger aren't just making music together. They're getting hitched.

A spokeswoman for Lavigne confirmed a Tuesday report from People magazine that the 27-year-old pop singer and 37-year-old rocker became engaged earlier this month after dating for six months.

The magazine says Lavigne was introduced to Kroeger in February when they met to co-write a song for Lavigne's upcoming album.

It will be the first marriage for Kroeger and the second for Lavigne. She filed for divorce in 2009 from Sum 41 frontman Deryck Whibley after three years of marriage.

Lavigne surged to fame with her 2002 album "Let's Go." Kroeger has served as lead vocalist and guitarist for Nickelback since the band formed in 1995.

Nicole Kidman to be honored by NY Film Festival

AP

This May 24, 2012 file photo shows actress Nicole Kidman poses during a photo call for "The Paperboy" at the 65th international film festival, in Cannes, southern France.

NEW YORK (AP)—Nicole Kidman is being honored by the New York Film Festival in a gala tribute.

The Film Society of Lincoln Center announced Tuesday that Kidman will be celebrated at the 50th-annual New York Film Festival. The festival will also honor its longtime director Richard Pena in a second gala.

The film "The Paperboy" has been added to the festival's slate. It's directed by Lee Daniels and stars Kidman, Zac Efron, John Cusack and Matthew McConaughey.

Pena is also programming director of the film society. He is stepping down from Lincoln Center this year following his 25th festival.

The gala for Kidman will take place Oct. 3, with the Pena event following on Oct. 10. The festival runs Sept. 28 through Oct. 14.

Dick Van Dyke to get SAG Life Achievement Award

AP

This Jan. 29, 2012 file photo shows actor Dick Van Dyke presenting the Life Achievement award onstage to Mary Tyler Moore at the 18th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dick Van Dyke will receive the Screen Actors Guild's highest honor: The Life Achievement Award.

Screen Actors Guild & American Federation of Television and Radio Artists co-president Ken Howard made the announcement Tuesday. He called Van Dyke "an enormously talented performer whose work has crossed nearly every major category of entertainment."

The 86-year-old entertainer will receive the honor at the annual Screen Actors Guild Awards ceremony in January. He has already won a Tony, a Grammy and five Emmy awards.

Van Dyke is being honored for his 60-year career, which includes his hit TV show and film credits such as "Bye Bye Birdie" and "Mary Poppins," and his commitment to philanthropic causes.

The 19th annual SAG Awards will be presented Jan. 27.

'The Office' will end its run on NBC next season

NEW YORK (AP)—"The Office" will be closing next year.

Producer Greg Daniels says the NBC comedy will conclude business at Dunder Mifflin after the upcoming ninth season.

He said Tuesday that the final year will be exciting and memorable and will take creative chances. And it will reveal who's been making the mock documentary that has provided the show with its format.

Daniels says, "I think endings can be very powerful."

Will former regional manager Michael Scott return as a guest? Daniels says he hopes Steve Carell will reprise his role as the socially inept boss, but he isn't counting on it. Carell left in 2011.

"The Office" was adapted from its British predecessor and premiered on NBC in March 2005.

While its ratings have slipped, it's still NBC's highest-rated scripted series.

AP

This undated image released by NBC shows Steve Carell as Michael Scott in a scene from "The Office."

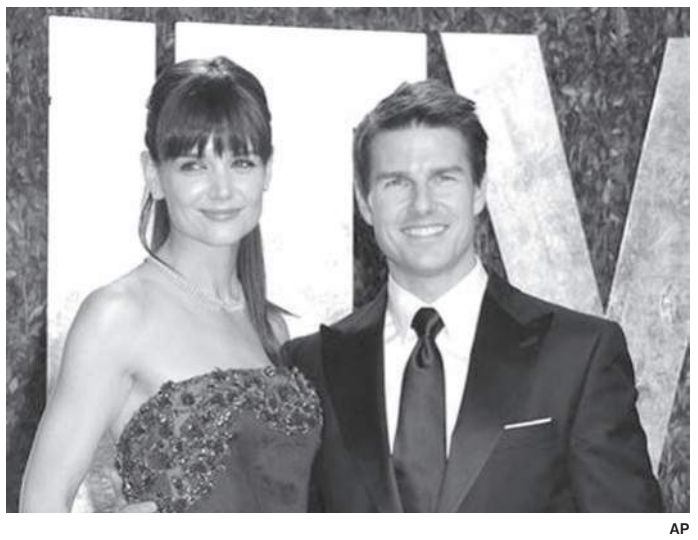
Court focus show Cruise-Holmes divorce case closed

NEW YORK (AP)—The Tom Cruise-Katie Holmes divorce case is closed.

Court records filed in a New York City court indicate the case was closed Monday.

Holmes and Cruise said in July they had reached an agreement less than two weeks into their headline-dominating divorce case. Their lawyers and representatives wouldn't disclose details.

The couple were married in Italy in 2006. They have a 6-year-old daughter, Suri.



AP

In this Feb. 26, 2012 file photo, actors Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes arrive at the Vanity Fair Oscar party, in West Hollywood, Calif. Court records filed in a New York City court indicate the case was closed Monday, Aug. 20.

New boyfriend's old life is still uncomfortably close

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I started dating my boyfriend a month ago. On our third date he informed me that he was previously married. It lasted two years and he has been divorced for almost a year. It didn't bother me, so I let it go.

He introduced me to his two roommates—one of them is female. After spending a day with them, I noticed he had an odd relationship with her. When I asked him about it later, he said she's his ex-wife. They live together and share basically everything, including groceries and a laptop. He can't seem to understand why I'm disturbed by this.

He says the decision to divorce was mutual and that they have both been seeing other people for a while. I adore him and hate to end a fantastic relationship because I'm jealous. I have no life experience to prepare me to handle this sort of situation, so I don't know what to do. Help!

TAKEN ABACK IN PITTSBURGH

DEAR TAKEN ABACK: Sometimes when a person doesn't know what to do, the best thing to do is—nothing. Your relationship is very new. Stay calm and see how it develops. If you both decide to take it to the next level, the living arrangements may change to something you're more comfortable with.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My 70-something-year-old mother is being remarried soon. I'm happy she has found love again after my father's passing. Several of her friends are throwing her a lingerie shower to celebrate. Abby, I am uncomfortable attending this party.

I asked that she exclude me from the list, but yesterday I received an invitation. Hooray! She has a new life which involves new love. I just don't want to think of my mother in that role. Am I wrong to not want to attend?

THEY GROW UP SO FAST

DEAR T.G.U.S.F.: You're not wrong. While most of us are aware that we did not arrive via immaculate conception, few of us want to dwell on the reality of our parents as sexual beings. Because you have already told your mother how you feel, simply respond to the invitation by saying you are unable to attend.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I often read letters in your column you refer to as "Pennies From Heaven." I have something I'd like to share with you.

I believe that I have received such gifts from my older brother, Shane, who passed away as an infant. I found one the other day that can't be explained away as anything but a penny from heaven.

As I was about to leave for my morning commute to work, I went out to the garage where I keep my bike, helmet and biking gloves. As I pulled my glove on, I found—you guessed it!—a penny was lodged in the little finger. I never keep money where these gloves are, so I can only guess that Shane put it there for me.

LOVED LITTLE SISTER IN INDIANA

DEAR LOVED LITTLE SISTER: The penny may indeed have been a token of your angel brother's affection. Keep it for luck while you're on the road, and pedal on with confidence knowing you're being lovingly watched over from above.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

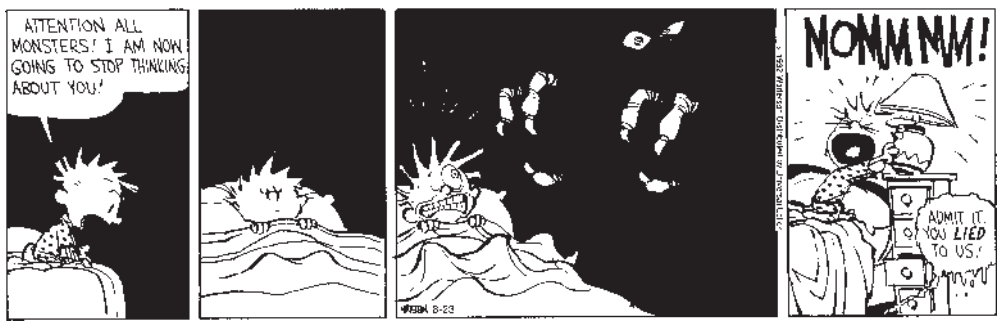
■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

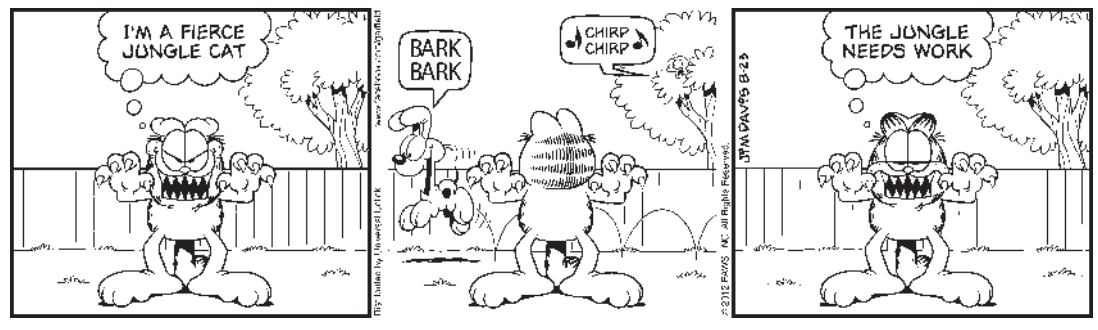
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



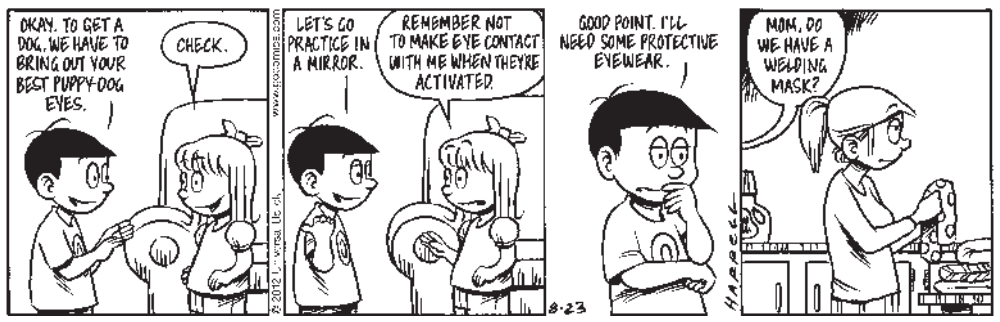
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



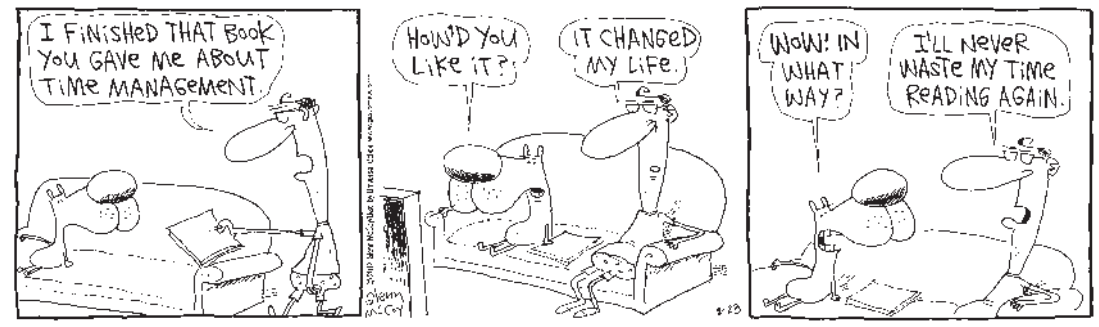
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY. TO GET A DOG, WE HAVE TO BRING OUT YOUR BEST PUPPY-DOG EYES.
CHECK.
LET'S GO PRACTICE IN A MIRROR.
REMEMBER NOT TO MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH ME WHEN THEY'RE ACTIVATED.
GOOD POINT. I'LL NEED SOME PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR.
MOM, DO WE HAVE A WELDING MASK?
8-23

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I FINISHED THAT BOOK YOU GAVE ME ABOUT TIME MANAGEMENT.
HOW'D YOU LIKE IT?
IT CHANGED MY LIFE.
WOW! IN WHAT WAY?
I'LL NEVER WASTE MY TIME READING AGAIN.

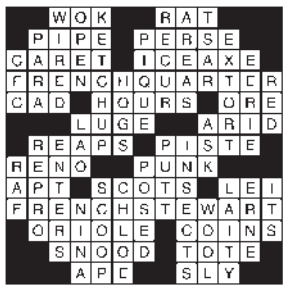
CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

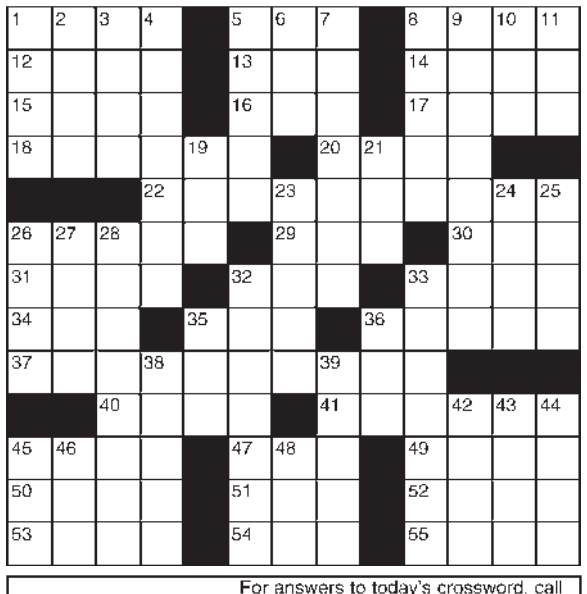
ACROSS
1 Hairstyle
5 Fond du —, Wisc.
8 Wan
12 Pitch
13 Bachelor's last words
14 Old portico
15 Largest continent
16 — canto
17 Get ready, for short
18 Catch sight of
20 Eye layer
22 West Virginia industry
26 — nerve
29 Japanese sash
30 Sticky stuff
31 Frog's cousin
32 Pair
33 Timely question?
34 Unwell
35 Miler Sebastian
36 Name
37 "Kiss Me Kate" composer
40 Up to
41 Discomfort
45 Dressed
47 Botanical sticker
49 Walked (on)
50 Heap
51 "— was saying, ..."
52 Enthralled
53 PC operator
54 Scooted
55 Shetland, e.g.

DOWN
1 N'Djamena's country
2 Northamptonshire river
3 Rainbow
4 Limp
5 Egypt's neighbor
6 Citric quaff
7 Rumpled sleuth of TV
8 Colorado ski mecca
9 Poker-winning hand
10 Weeding tool
11 Shrill bark
19 Sinbad's flier
21 Half of XIV
23 Depress
24 Yule refrain
25 Missing
26 Ear-related
27 Horseplay?
28 Yarn
32 Strip of icons
33 Bug
35 Sgt.'s subordinate
36 Coffee break time
38 Duck down
39 Shroud city
42 Jason's ship
43 Any day now
44 Nervous
45 PC's brain
46 Fleur-de- —
48 "Born in the —"

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 8-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Scott Caan, 36; Jay Mohr, 42; Shelley Long, 63; Barbara Eden, 78.

Happy Birthday: Don't give in to demands, but do listen to what others say. Use your intuition to come up with the most suitable choices and you will have no regrets. Being true to you and what you want to accomplish is most important. Your numbers are 10, 14, 19, 28, 31, 37, 40.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Get ready to make changes that will help you out financially and emotionally. Take a good look at the relationships you have with both business and personal acquaintances and do what you can to make improvements. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't make a move because someone else does. You have to do what's best for you if you are going to excel. Being a follower will not get you what you want in the end. Do business via the phone or Internet. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Discuss your plans and forge ahead. You may not get everyone's blessings, but you will feel at peace once your plans are out in the open. A move or a change in the way you live will help you feel good about your accomplishments. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Concentrate on what's ahead, not on what has already taken place. Put your heart into whatever you do, and take time to enjoy the company of the people you enjoy being with most. A trip or new experience will help you rejuvenate. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Keep moving if you want to get everything on your to-do list finished. A relationship you have with someone will change if one of you is secretive. You will learn quickly; focus on mastering a new skill to add to your resume. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Consider your motives before you get entangled in something for the wrong reason. You are best to follow your heart, not what you think will bring you the highest return. Happiness will be based on self-satisfaction. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Open up a dialogue with people you feel have something to teach you. Don't let a relationship get you down or cause you to miss something you want to attend or do. You can resolve pending problems if you voice your concerns. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You aren't likely to win a debate by talking. Showing what you can do will be far more effective. An interesting concept you come across can be easily manipulated to fit something you want to pursue. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Keep things out in the open. Secrets will lead to suspicion. Make the alterations at home that will make your life better. A change of heart may end up costing you financially or emotionally. Choose your battles and your friendships wisely. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Check out what everyone else is doing, and you'll find a perfect place to put your skills to work. What you contribute will be well-received and put you in the running for advancement. A partnership will enhance your future prospects. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Winning and controlling are not the same things. Make sure that everyone, including you, has the freedom to express individuality in whatever way possible. You will bring out the best in everyone and surpass your dreams, hopes and wishes. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You'll be torn between what you should do and what you want to do. Don't miss out; get organized, call in favors and move quickly in order to take care of your responsibilities and enjoy fulfilling your desires. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intense, determined and observant. You work hard and play hard.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8				1		4	
3		4						8
	2				5	9		
				7		1		4
8		5		3				
		6	4				8	
9						2		6
	5		2				7	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	8	1	6	2	5	7	3	9
7	3	5	9	1	4	8	6	2
6	2	9	7	8	3	4	5	1
5	7	8	2	3	9	6	1	4
2	4	3	1	5	6	9	7	8
9	1	6	4	7	8	3	2	5
1	9	7	8	6	2	5	4	3
3	6	4	5	9	1	2	8	7
8	5	2	3	4	7	1	9	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/22

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

REGISTERING A DOMAIN NAME **Solution: 11 letters**

S	S	Y	T	G	U	A	R	A	N	T	E	E	R	E
C	E	S	D	D	O	T	S	T	E	R	N	E	C	T
R	O	D	E	D	C	H	A	T	U	I	V	A	I	I
C	E	N	O	N	A	M	E	C	L	R	P	D	E	S
E	E	K	N	P	I	D	E	N	E	Ⓢ	E	M	L	B
T	S	B	I	E	A	S	O	S	G	S	Ⓐ	S	O	E
H	N	H	D	N	C	R	U	G	D	I	E	Ⓕ	E	W
E	A	U	O	N	O	T	K	B	L	L	N	G	Ⓔ	T
R	D	D	O	C	U	M	I	I	R	B	T	E	A	U
N	D	L	R	C	K	L	M	O	N	E	A	C	K	P
E	R	I	O	N	C	W	H	F	N	G	D	N	C	U
T	E	W	W	E	A	A	A	C	I	F	I	N	D	T
E	S	E	P	O	R	D	I	V	S	L	E	S	E	E
X	S	R	A	R	T	S	I	G	E	R	E	E	E	S
T	S	I	L	T	M	A	R	K	E	T	A	B	S	D

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Account, Address, Band, Business, CCTLDs, Chat, Connection, Cost, Design, Dotster, Drop, Edit, Email, Engine, eNom, Ethernet, Fees, File, Go Daddy, Guarantee, Link, List, Market, Moniker, Online, Pages, Registrar, Reset, Safe, Schlund, Secure, Sedoparking, Sender, Server, Setup, Shockwave, Space, Tabs, Text, Track, Tu Cows, Website, West, Wild

Yesterday's Answer: Qualified

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 or 36 for $6.95 each (US funds only; payable to Universal Uclick) plus $3 postage for the first book (add $1 for each additional book), send to WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-591-6469. Order online at puzzles.com. Allow 4-6 weeks for first-class delivery in the U.S.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
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• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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PLEASE EMAIL RESUME/CVs TO
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A TanHoldings Company

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(1) Guest Relations Agent
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Applications may be obtained from Fiesta Resort's security office located at the South Wing. Last day for submission of applications to be considered is August 24, 2012. No phone calls please.

SAIPAN LAULAU DEVELOPMENT INC.
dba LAOLAO BAY GOLF & RESORT

LAOLAO BAY GOLF & RESORT

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
HVAC TECHNICIAN

Location:	Facility and Maintenance Department
Duties:	Repairs roof top cooling units, motors, and pumps of varying size and configuration Wires and maintains electrical temperature controls, changes bearings, fans, motors, and shafts Repairs, installs, and maintains air conditioning compressors and electrical motors Trouble shoots and repairs roof top air conditioning, cooling towers, pumps, coils and related equipment Knows how to use all hand tools, test equipment, power tools and other equipment associated with the trade Performs other work related duties as assigned
Requirements:	High School diploma or GED, additional technical education preferred Three years experience in the trade Knowledge of cooling units, and physically able to perform essential functions Follow plans of procedure, determined sequence of operations and complete a project using acceptable procedures Must be able to be contacted by phone and must respond to emergencies Performs preventive and regularly schedules maintenance of the systems, Technician's training and certification must be in accordance with the provisions found in Subsection 82.161 of 40 CFR Part 82 Subpart F Helps other maintenance staff as needed or as directed
Deadlines:	Applications must be submitted to the Human Resources Office, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort no later than Friday, 5:00 pm on September 14, 2012. You can also email your application to mada@laolaobay.com. A resume will not be accepted in lieu of an application. No phone calls will be accepted.
Applications:	Applications are available at the Front Office, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Kagman
Salary:	Minimum wage

The LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort hires only United States Citizen and lawfully authorized nonresident workers who are in compliance with their Immigration Status.

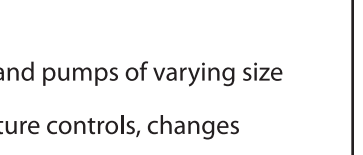
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

EMPLOYMENT

Wing Corporation needs an Accountant - $5.55/hr. College Grad. w/ 5 yrs experience. Pls call 233-3341

(3) Child Caregiver. Salary: $ 5.05/hr. Minimum 2 years experience in handling kids and CPR Certified. Fax resume to Sisters Corp. Inc. 233-6828.

LOOKING TO BUY VEHICLES



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Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Angels top Red Sox, boost wild card bid

BOSTON (AP)—The Los Angeles Angels needed a strong outing by their starter after a disastrous series that wrapped up a disappointing homestand.

They got it from Ervin Santana.

The right-hander pitched 6 1-3 solid innings and the Angels beat the Boston Red Sox 5-3 on Tuesday night after getting swept in a four-game series against Tampa Bay.

''I don't see our guys tense or anything,'' Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. ''They're frustrated and they went through a very tough homestand. The only thing that's going to cure that is to start to play to your potential and start to win.''

Mark Trumbo did that against Boston after getting just 14 hits in his previous 76 at-bats. His career-best 30th homer, a two-run shot, gave the Angels a 5-0 lead in the fifth.

''I can't pinpoint one thing,'' he said. ''It just feels more like my swing when it's going well. I always try and drive the ball, but maybe my swing was overly aggressive. I tried to tone it down a little bit.''

The Angels are four games behind Baltimore for the second wild-card berth in the AL. After three games in Boston, they have three in Detroit, which is one spot and 2 1/2 games ahead of them.

Los Angeles' playoff hopes took a beating when it went 3-7 on the homestand that ended Sunday.

But Santana's performance was a rare strong outing for the Angels' starters, who entered the game with a 6.76 ERA in in August and had allowed 27 runs in 17 1-3 innings in the series against the Rays. Santana is 3-0 in his last five starts after going 0-3 in his previous five.

AP

Boston Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia awaits the throw, before tagging out Los Angeles Angels Mike Trout (27) on an attempted steal at second during the ninth inning of a baseball game in Boston Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2012. The Angels won, 5-3.

White Sox 7, Yankees 3

In Chicago, it's hard to tell where the Chicago White Sox might be without Kevin Youkilis. He's been what they expected and needed when the veteran third baseman was acquired from Boston.

And much more.

Youkilis, who was part of the fierce Yankees-Red Sox rivalry for years, hit a grand slam Tuesday night and the White Sox came back from an early deficit for the second straight game to beat New York , 7-3.

''I think there is a rivalry in the past that I played on and that was blown out of proportion,'' Youkilis said. ''I think here, it's not really that crazy. The fans aren't as crazy into it. They just treat it like every other game.''

Athletics 4, Twins 1

In Oakland, left-hander Brett Anderson pitched seven innings in his first start since undergoing elbow surgery nearly 15 months ago and the Athletics turned a triple play behind him in a 4-1 win over the Minnesota Twins on Tuesday night.

Newly acquired shortstop Stephen Drew went hitless in his Oakland debut but it hardly mattered. Coco Crisp, Seth Smith and Josh Donaldson had two hits apiece for the A's, who remain one-half game behind Baltimore in the race for the second wild-card spot in the American League.

Anderson struck out seven and faced one batter over the minimum in his return after being sidelined since June 5, 2011.

Mariners 5, Indians 1

In Seattle, Felix Hernandez wasn't perfect. He was still dominant.

Hernandez allowed one run in 7 2-3 innings in the first start following his perfect game, Jesus Montero hit a three-run homer in Seattle's four-run seventh inning, and the Mariners won their seventh straight beating the Cleveland Indians 5-1 on Tuesday night.

Greeted by a crowd of more than 39,000, most of them in yellow shirts with the words "King of Perfection" honoring his perfect game, Hernandez (12-5) gave up a leadoff single to Jason Kipnis on a 0-2 pitch. He allowed seven hits and struck out five.

Orioles 5, Rangers 3

In Arlington, Rangers starting pitcher Scott Feldman worked out of a rough stretch in May and June when he lost six straight by reeling off six consecutive victories.

After a 5-3 loss to the Orioles on Tuesday in which he gave up five runs on seven hits over five innings, he's now dropped three in a row.

No reason to panic, his manager said, even after the Rangers' right-hander gave up two big run-scoring hits with two outs, including Nate McLouth's two-run home run, in the Orioles' decisive four-run fifth inning.

Royals 1, Rays 0

In St. Petersburg, Kansas City reliever Kelvin Herrera got his first major league victory Tuesday night after Royals starter Luke Hochevar and Tampa Bay's David Price staged a classic pitchers' duel.

Eric Hosmer's two-out single in the 10th inning drove in the only run in the Royals' 1-0 victory that broke the Rays' five-game winning streak. The run off Joel Peralta (1-5) was unearned after an error on Tampa Bay shortstop Ben Zobrist.

''We knew, the way Price has been pitching the last seven weeks, we had to have Hoch throw a game like he did, and he did,'' said Jeff Francoeur.

Tigers 5, Blue Jays 3

In Detroit, the Tigers did a lot of their best work with their bats on their shoulders.

Detroit took advantage of Ricky Romero's wildness Tuesday night in a 5-3 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays. The Tigers scored their first two runs on bases-loaded walks, and although they never really broke the game open with a big hit, they did enough to keep pace in the AL Central race.

Detroit still trails the first-place Chicago White Sox by two games.

Brewers 5, Cubs 2

In Milwaukee, it had been so long for Marco Estrada that this one felt like his first major league victory.

The right-hander struck out nine in six sparkling innings to win for the first time in almost a year, helping the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Chicago Cubs 5-2 on Tuesday night.

''Definitely, that's the best he's thrown all year,'' catcher Jonathan Lucroy said. ''He controlled his fastball. He controlled his off-speed stuff.

Giants 4, Dodgers 1

In Los Angeles, Tim Lincecum bounced back from consecutive home losses with his third straight road win and the San Francisco Giants defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers 4-1 on Tuesday night, increasing their NL West lead to 1 1/2 games over their division rival.

The two-time NL Cy Young winner allowed one run and five hits in 5 2-3 innings after failing to pitch past the fourth inning in his last start, a loss to Washington last week. Lincecum (7-13) struck out four and walked one while the Giants provided him slightly more than his average of 3.91 runs of support.

A night after Madison Bumgarner and Clayton Kershaw combined for 20 strikeouts and no walks in the series opener, Lincecum and Dodgers starter Joe Blanton were less than scintillating in a matchup of pitchers with losing records.

Padres 7, Pirates 5

In San Diego, Chase Headley hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning to give the San Diego Padres a 7-5 win over the Pittsburgh Pirates on Tuesday night.

Headley's home run came off Daniel McCutchen (0-1) and gave San Diego its fourth straight win.

McCutchen issued a leadoff walk to Will Venable, who stole second before Headley hit his 21st homer. The home run was Headley's ninth this month with 26 RBIs, both major-league highs.

Marlins 6, Diamondbacks 5

In Phoenix, Giancarlo Stanton hit a run-scoring single with two outs in the 10th inning and the Miami Marlins rallied from an early five-run deficit to beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 6-5 on Tuesday night.

Bryan Peterson hit a tying single in the sixth inning after Miami fell behind 5-0 in the first.

Gorkys Hernandez beat out an infield single to shortstop off Sam Demel (0-1), the Diamondbacks' sixth pitcher, and went to second on a sacrifice bunt. Demel intentionally walked Jose Reyes and retired Carlos Lee on a flyball to center field before Stanton looped a clean single to left with the go-ahead run.

Cardinals 7, Astros 0

In St. Louis, a large contingent of family and friends waited outside the visitor's clubhouse for Lucas Harrell. After getting knocked around, the Houston Astros rookie pitcher wasn't all that anxious to see everyone.

Harrell allowed hits to six of the first seven batters in a four-run first inning that was plenty of cushion for Adam Wainwright, who threw a five-hitter and matched his career high with 12 strikeouts in the St. Louis Cardinals' 7-0 victory on Tuesday night.

"I feel like I let a lot of people down," Harrell said after giving up six runs in five innings. "That's definitely not my best and I can't wait to come back here and have a better outing.

Nationals 4, Braves 1

In Washington, because Nationals have an innings limit for star right-hander Stephen Strasburg, there aren't many starts left in his remarkable season.

On Tuesday night, Strasburg ignored that talk and weathered his first major league rain delay, striking out 10 and allowing one run in six innings for his 15th win as the Nationals beat the Atlanta Braves 4-1.

For weeks, the impending shutdown of Strasburg (15-5) has been the talk of baseball and though the Nationals haven't said exactly what their limit is, it's thought to be between 160 and 180 innings.

Rockies 6, Mets 2

In New York, Colorado Rockies manager Jim Tracy gushed after the game about his team's situational hitting and offered a warm welcome back not only for starter Jhoulys Chacin, but the right-hander's improved fastball command.

New York Mets manager Terry Collins was spouting off, too, following the Mets' 6-2 defeat to the Rockies on Tuesday night at Citi Field.

But he was focused on what his team had lost rather than anything it had found.

Federer seeded No. 1 at US Open; Djokovic No. 2

NEW YORK, N.Y.—Roger Federer will be the top-seeded men's player at the U.S. Open.

The 17-time Grand Slam champion was ranked No. 1 in the ATP rankings released Monday. Defending champ Novak Djokovic is seeded second and Olympic gold medallist Andy Murray third.

With Rafael Nadal out with knee problems, fellow Spaniard David Ferrer is the No. 4 seed.

Federer has won five titles at Flushing Meadows, tied for most in the Open era. He won Wimbledon this year and returned to the top of the rankings.

John Isner will be the highest-seeded American at No. 9. Andy Roddick is 20th, Mardy Fish is 23rd and Sam Querrey 27th among the 32 seeded players announced Tuesday by the U.S. Tennis Association.

The draw will be Thursday and the tournament begins Monday.

Meanwhile, two-time Grand Slam runner-up Vera Zvonareva has withdrawn from next week's U.S. Open because of a viral illness.

The 16th-ranked Russian lost in the final at Flushing Meadows in 2010 to Kim Clijsters. She retired in her third-round match against Clijsters at Wimbledon this year because of illness, then was routed 6-1, 6-0 by Serena Williams in the round of 16 at the Olympics.

This will be the second major tournament missed this year by Zvonareva. She pulled out of the French Open because of a right shoulder injury.

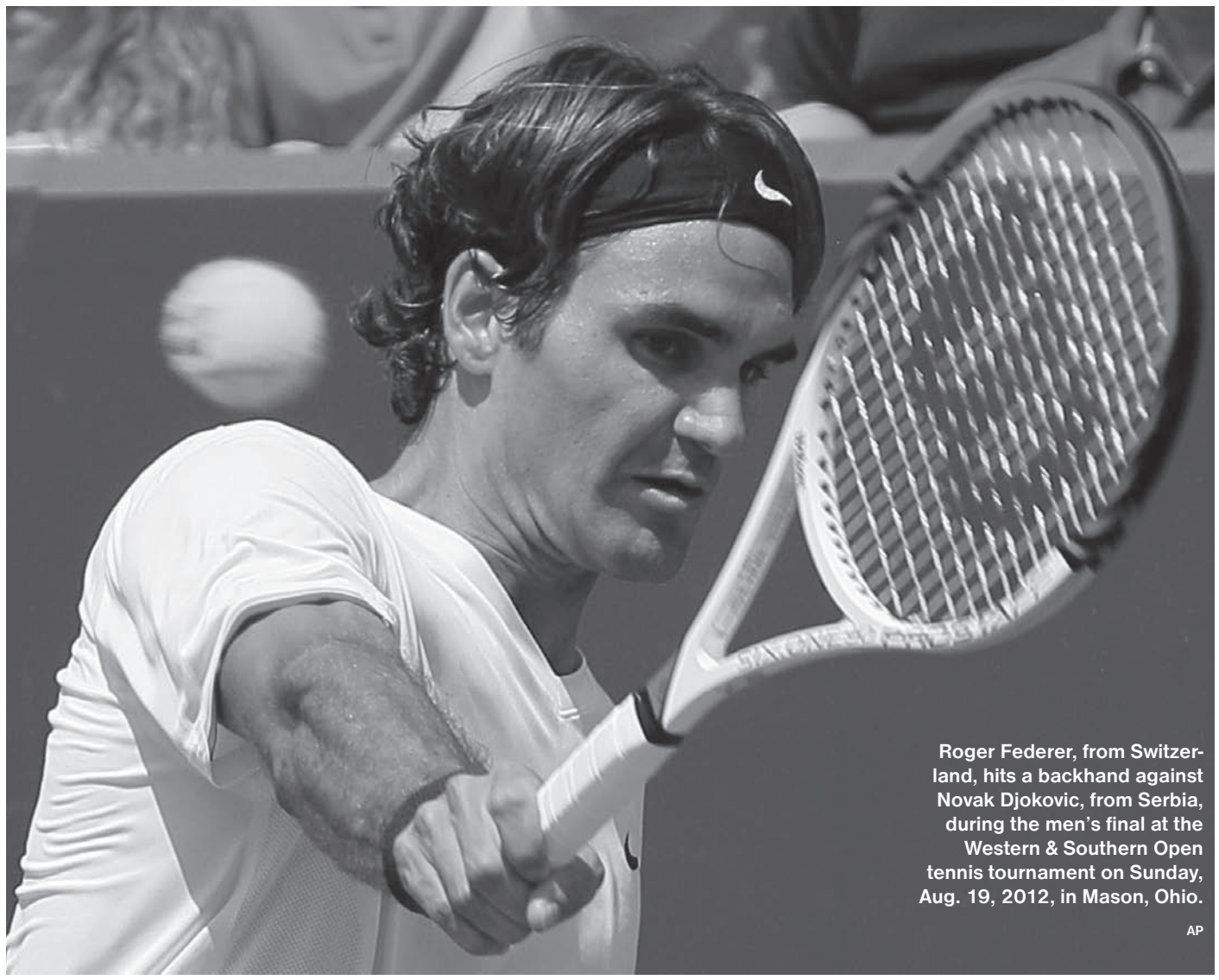
Ranked as high as No. 2 in the world in her career, Zvonareva also reached the final at Wimbledon in 2010.

Also withdrawing from the U.S. Open were two-time major champion Svetlana Kuznetsova and top-20 players Kaia Kanepi and Flavia Pennetta.

The U.S. Tennis Association did not give reasons for the three withdrawals Monday.

Kuznetsova won the 2004 title at Flushing Meadows, and added the 2009 French Open championship. She's been ranked as high as No. 2 but is only 48th this week.

The 15th-ranked Kanepi withdrew from Wimbledon and the London Olympics because of a heel injury. Pennetta is ranked 18th.



Roger Federer, from Switzerland, hits a backhand against Novak Djokovic, from Serbia, during the men's final at the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament on Sunday, Aug. 19, 2012, in Mason, Ohio.

AP

Jaguars to play 4 home games in London

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) —The Jacksonville Jaguars are going to be England's team.

The NFL and the Jaguars announced Tuesday that the small-market franchise will play one home game in London for four consecutive seasons beginning in 2013—a step the team believes will broaden its fan base and take some pressure off locals who have mostly failed to fill the stands in recent years.

''I passionately believe the big growth now is going to come from overseas,'' owner Shad Khan said. ''We've got to go where we can leverage and take advantage of some of those things. You've got to fish in ponds where you've got fish in there. We're going to a pond where there are no fishermen.''

The Jaguars will play at historic Wembley Stadium, which has hosted one NFL game annually since 2007.

''We want to create an identity, a bold, ambitious franchise that is aggressive and forward-thinking on the field and away from the field,'' Khan said. ''We want to be the kind of franchise players want to belong to, sponsors want to be part of, and Jacksonville is proud of. ... The key point is to sell Jacksonville to the world. We are a well-kept secret, but after today, that's not going to be the case.''

By all accounts, the Jaguars are the NFL's least popular team. They rank at or near the bottom of the league in website hits as well as Twitter and Facebook interactions. Although Jacksonville is the largest city in the continental United States in terms of land mass, it is home to just 1.3 million people - and that includes several surrounding areas; London alone has 8 million people.

Missing the playoffs in 10 of 12 seasons has made attracting fans a problem in Jacksonville. The team used to pack the stands regularly, even though it plays in a stadium built to house large crowds for the annual Florida-Georgia college football game. But in 2005, the Jaguars decided to cover up nearly 10,000 seats with tarps to reduce capacity and limit television blackouts. Even though the Jaguars haven't blacked out a home game since 2009, they still have struggled to fill EverBank Field.

Playing an annual game in London will reduce season-ticket prices by 10 percent, possibly making the remaining package a more affordable and enticing option.

Reaction, though, was mixed among the fan base. Some supported the decision and others questioned the team's motives. After all, if the Jaguars become England's team and continue to have issues back home, what's to stop the NFL from moving them across the pond for good?

''You can't fault them if anyone is mad about this,'' kicker Josh Scobee said. ''We can only ask for their support in going over there and ask them to watch it on TV.''

The St. Louis Rams had been scheduled to play in London in 2013 and 2014, but they pulled out last week, citing a need to focus on lease negotiations and ease fan discontent.

The Jaguars scooped up the available games - plus some.

''It's just good for the Jaguar brand,'' tight end Marcedes Lewis said. ''It's exciting to go over there and put ourselves on the map worldwide. When I got drafted in 2006, there were some of my family members who didn't even know who the Jaguars were.''

Players recognized the major pitfalls—traveling overseas and giving up home games—but no one knocked the decision publicly.

''We know football is the greatest sport in the states, so for fans in other areas who don't get to watch it first hand, it's good for them to experience and see what we all brag about,'' cornerback Rashean Mathis said.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell joined Khan for the announcement, which fittingly came on a gray, rain-soaked day in Jacksonville - typical London weather. Goodell reaffirmed his commitment to expanding to multiple games in England and eventually establishing a franchise there.

''The big issue for us was finding a community that understood that this could be great for the community, wrap their arms around it and say this is a win-win situation,'' Goodell said.

Khan said the Jaguars are committed to playing all four years at Wembley, even if the team becomes a Super Bowl contender and a hot ticket in Jacksonville.

''I think if you make a commitment, you stick with it,'' said Khan, who bought the team in November for $770 million. ''To me, we're all in.''

Khan added that he would consider playing more games overseas after the deal expires in 2016. He also acknowledged that the payoff probably won't be seen immediately. He suggested that Londoners could fall in love with the Jaguars and decide to visit Jacksonville regularly. The ultimate goal, though, would be to have European companies spend millions in Jacksonville.

''If somebody builds a container port, if somebody makes an investment out of Germany or England or Netherlands and they chose Jacksonville, that would be a huge return from my viewpoint,'' Khan said. ''You could have people come here—we've got beautiful golf, weather—instead of vacationing in Miami or some place and they come up here and watch a game or two. That would be a huge return for me.''

Coach Mike Mularkey and cornerback Aaron Ross have made the trip before - Ross with the New York Giants in 2007, and Mularkey with the Dolphins that year - and both praised the fans and the experience they gained from making the trip.

''I know Shad's been trying to have people recognize what's going on here in this town,'' Mularkey said. ''I think this is a great opportunity to get it. Obviously going overseas, that's making a statement.''

Meanwhile, Maurice Jones-Drew's holdout appears far from over.

His agent, Adisa Bakari, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the Jacksonville Jaguars running back is upset with Khan's recent public comments about his client's 27-day holdout.

''Maurice wants to play for an organization that wants him and for an owner who respects him and values what he brings to a team - on the field, in the locker room and in the community,'' Bakari said.

ESPN reported that Jones-Drew is open to being traded.

When asked Tuesday whether he would trade Jones-Drew, Khan said he is ''not going to get into all the theses and hypotheses.'' Khan added that Jones-Drew is ''a great player, and we would love for him to be back.''

Last week, however, Khan said MJD's absence ''doesn't even move the needle'' in terms of stress. Khan reiterated his stance Tuesday by saying, ''This is not a team about one person.''

His message to Jones-Drew?

''Train's leaving the station. Run, get on it,'' Khan said.

Bakari made it clear that those statements don't sit well with Jacksonville's biggest star.

''Obviously, he's not happy that what started as a very cordial and private conversation is now public and contentious,'' Bakari said.

Now, with both sides seemingly digging their heels in as deeply as possibly, it is unclear when or if Jones-Drew will show up in Jacksonville. The Jaguars open the season Sept. 9 at Minnesota.

Chris Paul undergoes thumb surgery

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles Clippers point guard Chris Paul underwent surgery to repair a torn ligament in his right thumb, an injury that occurred last month before he played for the U.S. in the London Olympics.

The team said Paul had the surgery Tuesday and he is expected to be sidelined for eight weeks. That means the All-Star guard wouldn't resume basketball activities until mid-October. The Clippers open the season on Oct. 31 against Memphis.

The Clippers said Paul got hurt during the U.S. training camp in Las Vegas. Despite the injury, he went on to lead the U.S. men's team to a gold medal in London. Paul started all eight games in the Olympics, averaging 8.3 points, 5.1 assists and a tournament-best 2.5 steals.

Paul is the second Clippers star to have surgery this summer. All-Star forward Blake Griffin had arthroscopic surgery on July 16 to repair the medial meniscus tear of his left knee that he suffered while training with the U.S. team. The injury forced him to miss the Olympics, but he is expected to be ready for the start of the season.

Bradley eyes Mayweather after Pacquiao

BOXING

LAS VEGAS--As the world waits for eight-division champion Manny Pacquiao to name his next opponent, one of his possible foes, Timothy Bradley, is already making plans in case "Pacman" chooses him, according to Bleacher Report.

Bradley told Boxing Scene that if he beats Pacquiao clearly, then a possible showdown with the undefeated Floyd Mayweather Jr. could be on the horizon.

"A fight versus Floyd could happen. I just have to school Pac this time to make it happen," Bradley claimed.

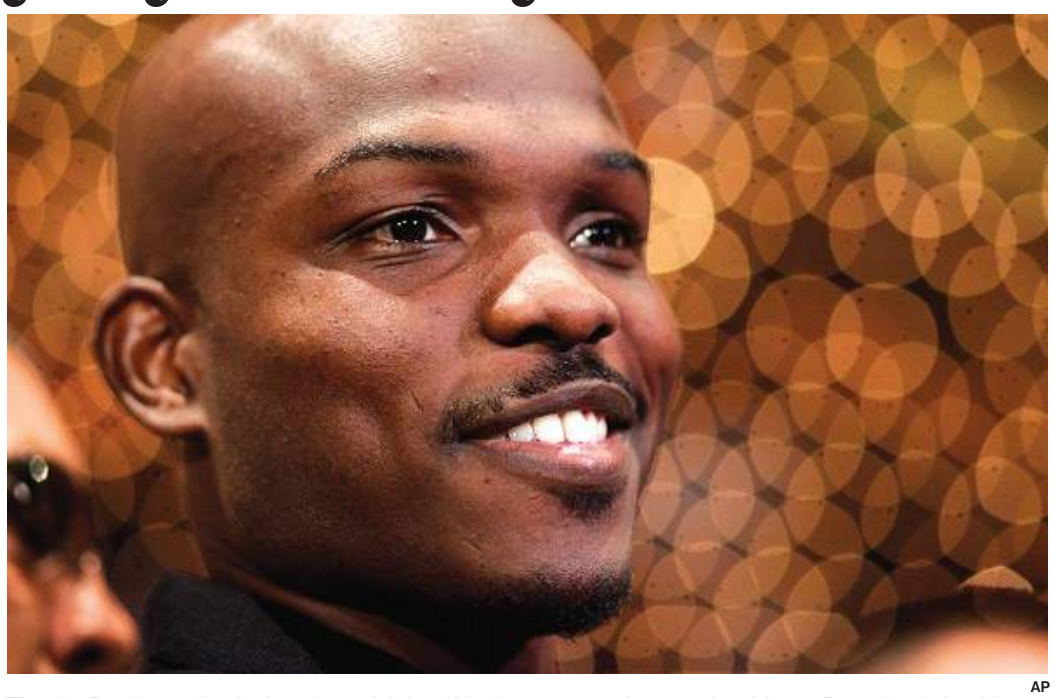
Sure, a Bradley-Mayweather showdown is a real possibility, but Bradley can't look past Pacman, as he will have to beat him convincingly this time around. The first fight's controversial split-decision (per ESPN) outcome left a bad taste in the mouths of boxing fans worldwide.

Bradley (29-0, 12 KOs) seems to know he will have to beat Pacquiao (54-4-2, 38 KOs) in clear-cut fashion, as he told Boxing Scene, "F--k it, let's go to war for the viewers."

Since Bradley fractured his foot in the second round of his and Pacquiao's first bout back in June (per ESPN), a healthy Bradley has a good chance in beating Pacquiao fair and square if the rematch is what Pacman chooses as his fight for November 10.

With increased chatter that a Pacquiao-Mayweather showdown could take place in April of 2013 (per Boxing Scene), Bradley beating Pacquiao in a proposed rematch would change those plans and would more than likely open up Bradley's chance to land a Mayweather bout.

First, of course, we will have to wait with the rest of the boxing world as Pacquiao ponders his next move. With all the possible implications surround a possible rematch, Pacman's answer can't be announced soon enough.



AP

Timothy Bradley smiles before the weigh-in of his June 9, 2012 bout against Manny Pacquioa in Las Vegas, Nevada.

SBA August roll-offs start Sunday

The Saipan Bowling Association will hold its August roll-offs at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan this Sunday and on Monday.

At stake in the Aug. 26 and 27 tournament are the King, Queen, and Prince of the Lanes crowns for this month.

In the Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes, male and female adult bowlers will fight for the August plum for two days. Sunday's roll-off will begin at 4pm, while Sunday's will start at 6pm. Participants can bowl on either days or both, but only the higher score will be counted.

Entry fee is $15 and only the first 48 bowlers to register will be allowed to compete. Cash prizes for the King of the Lanes will depend on the number of entries, while the Queen of the Lanes will only give cash prizes if at least 10 female keglers will join the tournament.

In the Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes, the competition will be played only this Sunday. Entry fee is only $10 and youth bowler must also pay the $10 membership fee to qualify for the monthly tournaments. Membership fee for adults is $15.

To register, please contact Gigi or Ross Zapanta at 288-5627 or via email at zapanta@pticom.com. ***(PR)***

CNMI

From Page 24

Race, who was in Fiji to coach the 10-player CNMI Team that ruled the POJC.

"Right now, we are looking for sponsors for this prestigious tournament," Race added.

A Grade 5 event is an introduction to the Junior ITF Circuit and awards 30 ranking points to the champion, 20 to runner-up, 15 to the semifinalists, 10 to the quarterfinalist, and 5 to the losers in the Round of 16.

Race said the Junior ITF event will have a 32-player singles draw both in the girls and boys divisions. There will also be a 16-player qualifying draw for both divisions.

The CNMI coach added the Grade 5 event will likely attract players from Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, Philippines, Australia, New Zealand. A few players from Europe and the U.S. may also join the Junior ITF event.

If the CNMI wins the hosting bid, Race said NMITA is planning to hold the competition from May 21 to 26.

The Commonwealth has never hosted a Junior ITF tournament that awards ranking points to participants, but several of its players had already participated in the coveted competition in the past years.

Just last week, U18 players Thea Minor, Christian Miller, and Rafael Jones and U15's Mikayla Lopez an Negahr Rastguiy joined the main draw of the 2012 Oceania Closed Junior Championships in Fiji.

The Oceania Closed is a B2 event that awards 120 Junior ITF points to the champion (for a 64-player draw), 80 to the runner-up, 60 to semifinalists, 40 to quarterfinalists, 25 to the losers in the Last 16, and 10 to the losers in the Last 32. Unfortunately, all five CNMI bets dropped their opening round games in the 32-player draw.

ZHAILA'S

From Page 24

way Express then almost lost possesion after Jeff Bahillo hounded Pete Lizama in the inbound play, but the ball hit the Zhaila's player last before going out. Bahillo tried again to disrupt Highway Express' inbound play and this time he succeeded, as he stole possession from Devero.

Highway Express committed another foul after the error, sending Jeff Chan to the free throw line and the Zhaila's guard canned both charities to put icing on the cake, with less than 30 seconds left on the clock.

Ajoste top-scored anew for Zhalai's with his 27 points, just three points behind his production in their 92-79 rout of Blue Haus last Saturday. Jeff Bahillo and Chan chipped in 10 each.

In the first make-up game, MBI played better in the third period and thwarted Playboy' fourth-quarter rally to gain a share of the Pool A lead with Zhaila's.

Playboy and MBI first met on Aug. 3, but the match was rained-out at the 2:56 mark of the first quarter with the latter ahead, 14-4.

At the resumption of the match, both teams struggled early with Playboy making only one free throw and MBI failing to score. Playboy cut the 9-point deficit to 4, 24-48, after outscoring MBI in the second canto, 19-14.

However, MBI got into its senses in the third period, as Leo Galarse and Roy Hernandez began to hit their target. Galarse, who had only 3 points in the first half, canned two triples and nailed 12 of his 15 markers in the third period. Hernandez had one triple and totaled 9 in the third quarter alone, which ended with MBI enjoying a double-digit lead, 51-38.

Playboy failed to keep up with MBI at the start of the second half with only Donnel Isip and Frank Macahito scoring more than two field goals in the third. Playboy then tried to bounce back in the fourth, but MBI made its free throws in the homestretch to foil the former's bid. MBI scored 10 of its 12 points in the final canto from the stripe, drilling the last 8 markers from the foul line.

First Game

MBI 63 – Galarse 15, Hernandez 13, Garcia 7, Trajano 7, David 6, Mendoza 4, Tenorio 4, Cordero 3.

Playboy 61 – Isip 16, Feria 10, Barrios 9, Macahito 8, Gonzales 5, Manangan 4, Hockett 2, Palacios 1.

Scoring by quarter: 14-5, 28-24, 51-38, 63-61.

Second Game

Zhaila's All Starz 79 – Ajoste 27, Jef. Bahillo 10, Chan 10, Ja. Bahillo 8, Sula 6, Aranda 6, R. Lansang 3, E. Lansang 2, Tudela 1.

Highway Express 70 – Devero 25, Ritual 12, Lizama 8, Tobias 8, Herrera 6, Patawaran 3, Ebuen 2, Tibayan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-22, 37-35, 58-57, 79-70.

MIEKO

From Page 24

pian Olivier Marceau, world record holder Julie Barnett, Asian Games gold medalist Ryosuke Yamamoto, and Olympians Kiyomi Niwata, and Miles Stewart.

"He has been my coach for more than two years and he has helped me recover from my injury," said Carey, who had to slow down from training early this month after surviving the tough Kaike Triathlon in Japan last month.

She almost did not finish the Kaike race due to stomachaches, but her willpower and support from her parents pushed her to complete the 8-mile run (replacing the cancelled swim leg), 145-km bike leg, and the last 42-km run part in 10:00:27.

Carey is now back in Japan to defend the women's division title in the 2012 XTERRA Japan. She left Saipan last Monday and will be aiming for her fourth straight XTERRA Japan crown this Saturday.

The 34-year-old triathlete was the lone female pro entered in last year's XTERRA Japan and timed in at 3:00:25 in the 1.2-kilometer swim, 25-km mountain bike race, and 10-km run off-road event held in Gunma Prefecture. Her 2011 winning time was faster than the 3:03:00 she logged in 2010, and just nine seconds shy of her best time in XTERRA Japan (3:00:16/2009).

The XTERRA Japan will be Mieko's last major event before she heads to Hawaii this October for the 2012 XTERRA World Championships. In Japan, Mieko will be defending the women's title against 2011 XTERRA Saipan champion and U.S. pro Shonny Vanlandingham.

Vanlandingham is making a comeback at the second half of the XTERRA World Tour season after missing the 2011 XTERRA World and other races early this year due to an ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) injury to her knee.

HOLE-IN-ONE

From Page 24

Manager Pauline Johnson and Marketing Coordinator Naomi Boone.

Besides the cash prize, two brand new cars will also be given away as hole-in-one prizes.

Triple J Motors is giving away a 2013 Mazda 3, while Joeten Motors will hand out a 2012 Ford Fiesta to the lucky hole-in-one winner.

This year's Docomo Classic has an entry fee of $85 and $75 to Docomo Pacific subscribers. Entry forms are available at the Docomo Pacific store on Middle Road in Gualo Rai. Entry fees are accepted at Docomo Pacific. Deadline for submission of entry forms is set for Aug. 30. The weekend event will tee off at 7:30 am.

Proceeds from the annual competition will go to Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC).

The event's major sponsors also include DFS Saipan Ltd, First Hawaiian Bank, Mobil, and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, while Fiesta Resort, Delta Air Lines, the Marianas Visitors Authority, Pacific Islands Club, Dickerson & Quinn, Kautz Glass, and DataDot Micronesia are also supporting next month's fundraiser.

For more information, contact James Nelson at (670)483-4924 or email jnelson@docomopacific.com. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	72	51	.585	–
Tampa Bay	68	55	.553	4
Baltimore	67	56	.545	5
Boston	59	64	.480	13
Toronto	56	66	.459	15 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	67	55	.549	–
Detroit	65	57	.533	2
Kansas City	55	67	.451	12
Cleveland	54	69	.439	13 1/2
Minnesota	51	71	.418	16

West Division

Texas	71	51	.582	–
Oakland	66	56	.541	5
Los Angeles	63	60	.512	8 1/2
Seattle	60	64	.484	12

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	77	46	.626	–
Atlanta	70	53	.569	7
New York	57	66	.463	20
Philadelphia	57	66	.463	20
Miami	57	67	.460	20 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	75	49	.605	–
Pittsburgh	67	56	.545	7 1/2
St. Louis	66	56	.541	8
Milwaukee	56	66	.459	18
Chicago	47	75	.385	27
Houston	39	84	.317	35 1/2

West Division

San Francisco	68	55	.553	–
Los Angeles	67	57	.540	1 1/2
Arizona	62	61	.504	6
San Diego	55	70	.440	14
Colorado	48	73	.397	19

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

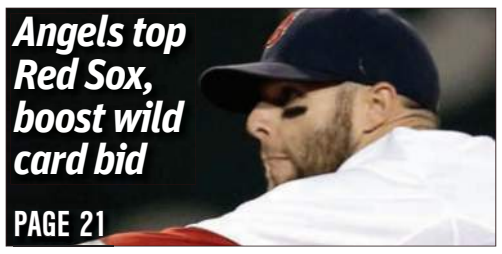
DLX LEAGUE STANDINGS

Pool A

Zhailas	3	0
MBI	3	0
San Antonio	3	1
Playboy	1	1
KFC/Taco Bell	1	1
Highway Express	1	2
Blue Haus	1	2
Mawati	0	3
Hip Hop	0	3

Pool B

LD Prime	3	0
Looban	3	0
Anjie's Boys	2	1
360 Church	1	1
San Roque	1	2
Freestyl	1	0
Gualo Rai	0	2
QQ Rent A Car	0	2
Docomo	0	3



Saipan Tribune
Sports

CNMI bids to host Junior ITF tourney

Rafael Jones, seen here returning a shot during the 2011 CNMI Junior Championships at the AMP tennis courts, competed in this month's Junior ITF event in Fiji. The CNMI is hoping to host a Junior ITF ranking event next year. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI is hoping to host a Junior ITF ranking tournament next year.

Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association president Jeff Race said NMITA submitted a bid to host a Grade 5 event under the Junior ITF Circuit calendar early this month in Fiji.

"While we were competing in the 2012 Pacific Oceania Junior Champions in Fiji, we also submitted a bid to host a Junior ITF event. We will know if our bid is approved or not between the first and second week of September," said

See CNMI on Page 23

Mieko to join training camp in Australia

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan pro Mieko Carey will be participating in a training camp in Australia next year to prepare for the 2013 season.

"I will meet my coach Col (Colbert Stewart) in Gold Coast, Australia and join his training camp. I will be back to his place next year to train so I can get stronger and faster in 2013," said Carey in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Stewart is a Level 3 coach in the Land Down Under and has handled triathletes who had competed both in the Olympics and World Championships. The former Australian national coach had mentored XTERRA Saipan champion and Olym-

See MIEKO on Page 23

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mieko Carey, seen here negotiating the tough bike course at the backside of Mt. Tapochao during the 2011 XTERRA Saipan, will be attending a training camp in Australia to prepare for the 2013 season.

Zhaila's, MBI share lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Zhaila's All Starz and Micronesian Brokers, Inc. extended their streak to three to force a two-way tie in the lead in Pool A of the 2012 DLX/Gualo Rai Invitational Basketball League.

Zhaila's All Starz improved to a 3-0 record after slipping past Highway Express, 79-70, in the second make-up game at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court last Tuesday, while MBI resumed its rained-out match against Playboy and won, 63-61, to gain a perfect 3-0 record, too.

Highway Express absorbed its second straight loss after a 67-66 debut win over Blue Haus two weeks ago. The Ivan Devero-led Highway Express started a losing skid as it folded up in the homestretch of its game against the streaking Zhaila's.

Highway Express was still in the thick of the fight midway in the fourth, down by only three, 64-67, when Zhaial's Tim Sula hit back-to-back shots and Jeff Bahillo capped the short 6-0 run with a breakaway layup to wide the gap, 73-64.

Sensing trouble, Highway Express sued for time and then answered with its own 5-0 run off Jun Patawaran's drive and split free throw and Roger Herrera's fastbreak layup. With its rally, Highway Express managed to cut the lead to four, 69-73, going into the final 1:08 of the match.

However, that was the closest that Highway Express could get, as it was forced to give up fouls in the ensuing plays and Zhaila's went 4-for-4 to keep the lead and the win.

Brian Ajoste was the first one to hit 2-for-2, upping Zhaila's advantage to six, 75-63. High-

See ZHAILA'S on Page 23

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Highway Express' Rocyl Ritual, left, tries to tap the ball away from Zhaila's All Starz' Brian Ajoste during the third quarter of their game in the DLX caging last Tuesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

10K hole-in-one prize at Docomo Golf Classic

AUGUST 17,2012
PAY TO THE ORDER OF Docomo Pacific Golf Classic $ 10,000.00
TEN THOUSAND & 00/100 DOLLARS
Bank of Hawaii
FOR DONATION
BANK OF HAWAII

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Bank of Hawaii Senior Vice President John Sheather, third left, turns over the ceremonial $10,000 check, a hole-in-one prize in the Docomo Pacific Golf Classic, to Docomo Pacific General Manager James Nelson, second left, Also present at the turnover ceremony are Docomo Pacific Retail Operations Manager Pauline Johnson, left, and Marketing Coordinator Naomi Boone.

A whopping $10,000 can be won in the 3rd Annual Docomo Pacific Golf Classic that will tee off on Sept. 1 at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

The $10,000 is a hole-in-one prize sponsored by Bank of Hawaii, which turned over the ceremonial check with tournament organizers recently. Leading the turnover ceremony was Bank of Hawaii Senior Vice President John Sheather, who was joined by Docomo Pacific General Manager James Nelson, Docomo Pacific Retail Operations

See HOLE-IN-ONE on Page 23